

Uneasy calm pervades community over 52-yr old woman's murder

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—UNEASY calm now pervades Ubachima village in Awo Omamma, Oru East local government area of Imo State, following the murder of a 52-year old woman and mother of nine, Madam Franca Obiwuru.

Vanguard investigations revealed that the "soft but very outspoken woman", who was on her way to a church for her daily Morning Mass obligation at about 5.30am, was abducted by suspected assassins, killed and dumped in a bush a few kilometres from her matrimonial home.

A female villager, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told *Vanguard* that "jitters ran down the spines of the villagers, especially members of her immediate family, when she failed to return from morning mass several hours after the church celebration ended".

According to the aggrieved villager, "the search party that was hurriedly put together started their search from her Okwuorji maiden home and when there was no trace of her there, they immediately concluded that they had a serious problem in their hands".

Continuing, the woman said

that "Madam Obiwuru's headscarf was eventually spotted near a roadside and at about 10 pm, her lifeless body was spotted covered in her own blood, while hundreds of soldier ants made a mince meat of her remains".

In her words: "The woman's head was badly battered. A careful observation of the corpse showed that there is a deep wound in her neck and back. There are also stabs on her body from sharp objects".

Answering a question, another villager who simply identified himself as Chukwuemeka, confirmed that there has been a running battle between the dead woman's immediate family and that of her extended family.

She confirmed that the matter has been reported to the police at Omuma Police Station and a number of persons arrested in connection with the matter, while the remains of late Madam Obiwuru has been deposited at a morgue in Umuokwe, Awo Omamma.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of Imo State Police Command, Mr. Linus Nwaiwu, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), said he does not have the facts of the case.