

Gunmen kill pregnant woman, 18-yr-old daughter, 3 others in Abia

By Eric Ugbor

ABA—GUNMEN Suspected to be assassins, Sunday, invaded the autonomous Community in Ugwunagbo Local Government Area of Abia State killing five persons, including a pregnant woman and her 18-year-old daughter and three others.

Buildings razed as villagers flee community

The hoodlums also set ablaze several buildings, forcing many residents of the community to flee to neighboring villages.

The gunmen were said to have entered the community at about 8:30 p.m. that fateful Sunday on a motorcycle and made straight to their victims whom they shot severally, leaving them in a pool of their blood.

An eye witness told *Vanguard* that the gunmen, numbering about eight, after murdering their victims, shot sporadically as they fled to unknown destination.

When *Vanguard* visited the community, which had been notorious for violent crimes in recent time, there was wailing and cries but nobody could volunteer information of what happened as fear gripped many of them.

It was gathered that the hoodlums only came to commit the heinous crime as they were said to have left after shooting their victims without demanding for money or ransom as in the case of kidnappers.

However, a source in the village revealed to *Vanguard* that the victims were all relations of leaders of the

youth organization of the village.

It was further gathered that the youth body of the community had warned suspected criminals to desist from their nefarious activities, a situation that forced many of the "bad" boys of the community to flee the village.

The source alleged that the assassins might have come on vendetta mission aimed at destroying those opposed to their nefarious operations in the community.

At the time of filing this report, the entire community looked like a ghost town, as security agents have swooped on the village, ar-

resting every motorcyclist found in the community.

A reliable police source confirmed the report and stated that the Area Commander in Aba, Mr. Ebere Onyeagorom, had almost relocated to the area in a determined effort to apprehend the culprits.

N4bn cocaine seizure: Enugu lawmakers deny involvement

By Tony Edike

ENUGU—Enugu State House of Assembly, yesterday, denied any involvement in the reported interception of a container load of substance suspected to be cocaine worth N4 billion by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, in Lagos.

Vow not to shield any member

The House vowed that it would not shield any of its members found to be involved in such a heinous crime but declared that none of the 24 legislators had been arrested or contacted by the agency over the issue.

Briefing reporters on the issue, Chairman, House Committee on Information and Media, Mr. Marcel Njeze said the lawmakers were highly disturbed by the media report linking six uniden-

tified members of the House to the drug seizure, adding that the publication was targeted at dragging the image of the House to the mud.

He said that following the media report on the illicit drug deal, the lawmakers at their sitting yesterday deliberated extensively to ascertain if any member was actually involved but no member was found culpable.

Njeze said: "Fortunately for us, at our sitting today, all the 24 members of the House were present and we decided to inquire from the members if in anyway they were involved in this matter and the answer we got is that no member of the House has any hand in the illicit importation of cocaine or contraband into this country.

"The image of the House is very important that it should not be dragged to the mud so that members of the public who we represent will continue to have confidence in the House. This press

conference is not to protect any member of the House who may in any way be involved in any criminal act. The House will on its own want to know such a person so that we can invoke disciplinary action on him or her because we have anti-corruption committee that deals with such matters.

"This House frowns seriously on this publication, having made inquiries among our members and discovered that it is not true. We have also contacted the Director and a Senior member of the NDLEA in Enugu State to inquire from them because the publication said the case file had been handed over to the NDLEA by the Police and that three members of the House had been contacted and they said no case file on this matter had been transferred to them and that no lawmaker had been arrested from the House. So we are convinced that the report is false."