

Youths, women protest killing of medical doctor in Mbaise

BY CHIDI NKWOPARA

OWERRI — SCORES of youths and aged women, yesterday blocked the ever busy Owerri-Umuahia federal highway at Nkwogwu, Aboh Mbaise Local Government Area to protest the gruesome murder of their son and medical practitioner, Dr. Nonye Nwaise.

The peaceful protest, which lasted over two hours, truncated free flow of traffic on the highway until a detachment of policemen, led by J. P. Modi, a Chief Superintendent of Police, was moved in to restore peace in the area.

Vanguard investigations revealed that the slain Dr. Nwaise was a staff of Federal Medical Centre, Owerri, and was attacked and killed at a viewing centre, by

three armed men, who were operating on a motorcycle.

All the people who spoke to *Vanguard* on the murder fumed over what they termed "the increasing spate of insecurity in Imo State."

The villagers recalled with grief, how the late doctor attended to the health challenges of the villagers and most times, at no cost to the patients and their relations.

Particularly touching was the participation of a 73-year-old woman, Mrs. Chinyere Ogu, in the protest.

She condemned the killing of the 42-year-old doctor, saying: "He was down to earth during his life time. He was a solid defender of his people, especially the downtrodden. We have truly lost a rare gem."

Police arrest fake Lieutenant who specialises in car theft

BY IFEANYI OKOLE

LAGOS — OPERATIVES of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, SARS, at the Lagos State Police Command, Ikeja, have arrested a fake Army Lieutenant said to be the leader of a notorious syndicate that specialises in stealing of cars from showrooms across Lagos and Imo States.

The suspect, identified as Michael Okoeze, was arrested when SARS operatives received an intelligence report on the gang's activities and trailed him down to the home of his woman friend at Ogudu area of the state where they recovered four pairs of military uniform with badges of rank, berets, army identification cards and army boots.

His *modus operandi*, according to sources, is that the suspect, clad in a military uniform with the rank of a Lieutenant, would storm his preferred car showroom in a

taxi and after indicating his interest in one of the cars, would ask the salesman to allow him test drive the car while the taxi waited for him, after which he will abscond with the car.

A source who pleaded anonymity told *Vanguard* that one of the victims, who lost a Honda Civic, contacted the command and the officer in charge of SARS, Superintendent of Police, SP, Abba Kyari, led a team of operatives who trailed the suspect to a hotel where he lodged.

According to the source, "but when the suspect noticed the presence of the policemen he jumped out through the window but was later arrested at the home of his girl friend.

"The stolen Honda Civic Car with number plate LAGOS PQ 786 KJA and Honda CRV Sport Utility Van, allegedly stolen from Imo State were also recovered."

of Imo Director of Protocol

stopped the car, came out of the vehicle and shot him in his leg."

Although he did not give the surnames of those who sent them, the suspects equally did not give account of how they finished their

victim off.

"We wanted to bury him in a plantain plantation but later decided against it. We, however, decided to drop him close to the

road," the suspect said.

Meanwhile, Laz Anyanwu was yesterday laid to rest in his Amaimo, Ikeduru Local Government Area country home amidst weeping and curses.

octogenarian Lagos white cap chief

—Lagos govt

attempt to seek help was aborted as the gunmen had locked them inside and took away the keys.

Curious residents, as gathered, forced the door open and thereafter, took 73-year-old Onimole to an undisclosed private hospital where unfortunately, he was confirmed dead.

Sympathizers, majority of whom were traditional title holders, thronged the Onimole palace located few compounds away from Oba Rilwan Akiolu's Iga Iduganran palace, to commiserate with the bereaved family.

One of the leaders of the Onimole family, Major General Segun Ajiborise, described the deceased as an amiable person who would be missed by all.

He said: "Our family has lost a rare gem. The killing of our brother is a very pathetic experience. Early this morning, we woke up to hear the news that our brother, Chief Kayode Adeshina Onimole, the *Onimole* of Lagos and the *Opemulero* of Yorubaland was robbed and killed.

"We quickly got the police involved. The police have come and they have embarked on homicide investigation into the matter.

"There is nothing we can do; we just give glory to God. He was a traditional ruler but he had only one wife and six children."

The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr Umar Manko, confirmed the incident, saying investigation has begun.

Manko, however, ruled out

robbery attack, explaining that from information gathered, the killers did not collect a dime.

Deputy Commissioner of Police in-charge of the Criminal Investigation Department, Yaba, according to the CP, would head the investigative team.

It's shocking, unfortunate
—Lagos govt

Reacting to the death of the chief, Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Lateef Ibirogba, yesterday, said: "It is very unfortunate that this murder happened when Lagosians are commending the state government over the peace and security in the state.

"It is very unfortunate and

shocking that a time when the state is enjoying relative peace that such gruesome murder took place."

While commiserating with the deceased's family, the commissioner urged the police

to investigate the murder with a view to uncovering the assailants within the shortest possible time.

"We prayed God give the family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss while are appealing to the police to uncover the murderers within shortest possible time," he said.



The late Onimole.

or, Mr Laz Anyanwu

News

4 varsity students docked for cultism

BY DAUD OLATUNJI

ABEOKUTA — NO fewer than four university students in Ogun State were, Wednesday, arraigned before an Abeokuta Magistrates' Court for allegedly belonging to a secret cult, known as "Alora Buccaneer" and forceful initiation of new students into the cult.

The accused persons, Damilola Animashaun (20), Olakunle Kelani (20), Oluwatobi Anifowose (18) and Kazeem Amusa (18) who were arraigned on a four-count charge of conspiracy, felony, unlawful administering of oath and threat to life, were not represented by any counsel.

They all, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges against them.

According to the Police Prosecutor, Insp. Sunday Eigbejale, the alleged offences were committed on January 14, at about 12.30 a.m. at Osiele in Abeokuta.

The Magistrate, Mr Martins Akinyemi, however, granted the accused persons bail in the sum of N160,000 with two sureties in like sum.

He adjourned the case to March 4 for further hearing.

NSCDC arrests 5 suspects over diversion of Kerosene

BY PETER OKUTU

ABAKALIKI — NIGERIA Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, in Ebonyi State, yesterday, arrested five persons suspected to be involved in the illegal diversion of kerosene.

Addressing newsmen at the command headquarters in Abakaliki, the Corps Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Corps, ASC Emmanuel Nwali, stated that the suspects were arrested along Abakaliki-Enugu expressway while heading towards Abakaliki metropolis to dispense the product.

He said the suspects were held for illegal dealing in petroleum product known as DPK, thereby committing an offence punishable under section 1(17) of the miscellaneous offences Act, CAP 17, laws of the federation 2004.

He noted: "Our Command raided the Abakaliki-Enugu expressway and arrested five persons and seized 4,530 litres of kerosene in 151 gallons of 30 litres each in their possession."

CLO petitions IGP, others over injured cop

BY EMEKA MAMAH

ENUGU— THE South-East zone of the Civil Liberties Organisation, CLO, has carpeted the police over its inability to cater for one of its own injured by armed robbers while guarding a first generation bank in Enugu State last May 25.

According to the group, this was not encouraging to other policemen who were prepared to pay the supreme price in the course of their duties.

The CLO in a letter addressed to the chairman of the Police Service Commission, PSC, and copied the Minister of Police Affairs, Caleb Olubolade, narrated the plight of Sgt Gift Ayebabogha, who was allegedly shot by robbers while guarding a bank at Ovoko in Igboeze South Local Government of Enugu State on the fateful day.

The letter entitled, "Case of Sgt. Gift Ayebabogha (shot by armed robbers): bringing to fore the need for reform in respect of issues of welfare of the officers of the Nigeria Police Force," was signed by the Zonal Director of

CLO, Mr Olu Omotayo.

The letter read in part: "Sgt Ayebabogha, was a policeman serving at Police Mobile Force, Mopol 3, Agbani Road, Enugu. Sometimes in May 2012, he was posted to guard the bank (name withheld) at Ovoko Branch. On the May 25, 2012, the bank was attacked by heavily armed robbers.

"In the ensuing gun duel, the Sergeant came under heavy fire from the robbers who outnumbered him. A shot from the AK 47 assault rifle of the robbers ripped open the intestine of the Sergeant and he fell inside the security house. The robbers thinking that Sgt Ayebabogha had died ordered one of them to retrieve his rifle from him. Sgt Ayebabogha with the last energy in him used one hand to carry his falling intestine and used the other hand to launch another attack with his AK 47 rifle, killing the approaching armed robber while the others fled.

"The bank officials later rushed him to a hospital where he was operated upon, in a bid to save his life."

Robbers abandon loot, flee with gun

BY EMMA AMAIZE

SAPELE—POLICE in Delta State have launched a manhunt for two members of a four-man robbery gang, who bolted with their cut-to-size gun during a search operation by men of the Special Anti-Crime Patrol on Amukpe-Aghalokpe Road, near Sapele, Wednesday.

However, two other members of the gang were nabbed and are currently helping the police in their investigations.

At Ozoro/Emevor Road in Isoko area of the state, two suspected bandits, driving in Toyota Camry cars, with number plates LF 61 KJA and AV 878 USL, also took to their heels on sighting a team of Delta State Special Anti-Crime Patrol in the area, abandoning a Ghana-must-go bag filled with drugs.

Delta State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Famous Ajieh, who confirmed the arrest of the suspects, said the suspected robbers, who specialise in snatching motorcycles were intercepted by the police patrol team at about 10.00 hours, Wednesday.

"In the process of conducting search on their persons, the boys suddenly took to their heels and escaped into a nearby bush, while policemen chased and arrested two of them. Two motorcycles were also recovered from them," he added.

On the second incident, he said, "On sighting the police, the two drivers stopped the cars and jumped into the bush and a thorough search was later

conducted on the vehicles. During the search, opium key, popularly known as master key, suspected to belong to the hoodlums, one Ghana-must-go bag containing drugs were recovered."

Police nab alleged killers

BY CHIDI NKWOPARA

OWERRI—IMO State Police Command, yesterday, paraded two suspects —Udoka Ibe (28) and Chigaemezu Onyenwenu (27)—in connection with the brutal murder of the State Deputy Governor's Director of Protocol, Mr. Laz Anyanwu.

Addressing journalists in the State Police Command, Owerri, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr. Vitalis Onugu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, described the arrest of the duo as "a breakthrough."

While saying that Ibe and Onyenwenu are natives of Amaimo, Ikeduru Local Government Area and Orodo, Mbaitoli Local Government Area of Imo State respectively, the PPRO equally disclosed that Anambra State Police Command was investigating them for kidnapping and armed robbery.

He said: "When their respective homes were searched, three AK 47 rifles, 280 rounds of ammunition and 23 magazines were recovered from the suspects. These exhibits are still with Anambra State Police

Command."

Confirming their involvement in the gruesome murder of Laz Anyanwu, one of the suspects, Udoka Ibe, said their target was to snatch the man's vehicle.

According to Ibeh, "one

Gunmen murder ●It's shocking, unfortunate

BY EVELYN USMAN & MONSUR OLOWOOPEJO

LAGOS — UNIDENTIFIED gunmen, at the early hours of yesterday, shot an octogenarian white cap chief dead, in his apartment on Iga Iduganran Street, Isale-Eko, Lagos.

Meantime, the state government has described the death of the Onimole as shocking and unfortunate.

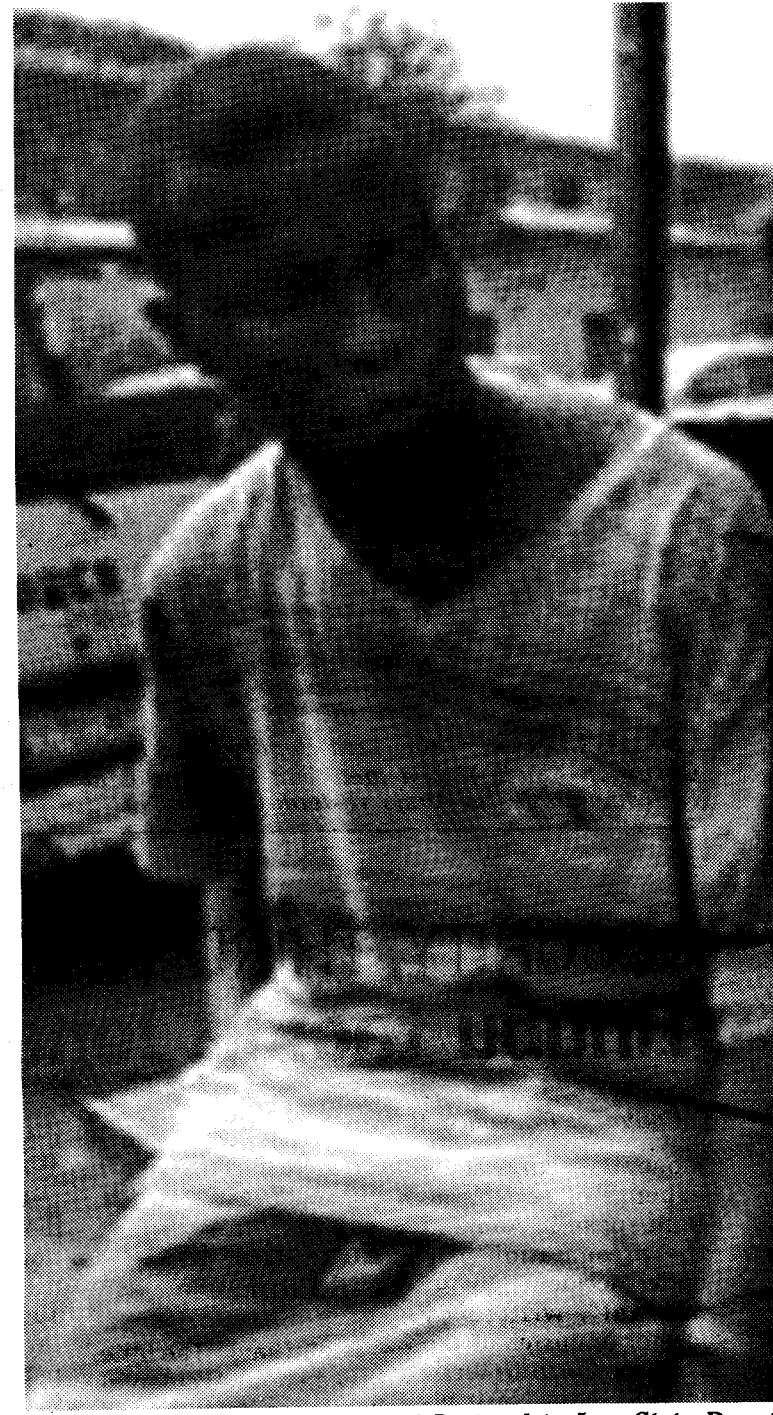
The deceased, identified as Chief Kayode Adeshina Onimole, was the Onimole of Lagos and a member of the white cap chiefs of Lagos. He was reportedly fast asleep in his Onimole palace when his assailants came calling at about

3 a.m. The gunmen, two in number, as gathered, moved straight to the chief's bedroom, where they met him and one of his children. They reportedly ordered them to lie down and demanded an unspecified money from the octogenarian who pleaded with them to take whatever they wanted, that he had no money.

But his plea fell on deaf ears as one of the gunmen reportedly collected his phone while his colleague pulled the trigger and shot him in the chest.

The dying man said to be bleeding profusely, managed to shout for help. But it was far from him.

When his children were certain the gunmen had left, their



Suspected killers of Director of Protocol to Imo State Deputy