

# Bloody Eid-el-Fitr in Benue

*... As gunmen kill ex-lawmaker, 20 others*

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**I**T was a bloody Eid-el-Fitri celebrations in Benue state, following the killing of about 20 persons including a Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, stalwart and elder statesman, Chief Atoza Ihindan, in Katsina/Ala local government area of the state.

Saturday Vanguard learned from a source that the septuagenarian and Second Republic lawmaker was waylaid and gunned down Friday morning in Katsina/Ala town by some unidentified persons

while inspecting ongoing work on the perimeter fence he was constructing round his piece of land.

According to the source, "the three armed men riding on a motorbike, waylaid Chief Ihindan at his construction site in Katsina/Ala town on Friday morning around 10am.

"They stormed the place in a commando style, though, the old man had with him, his aide and a police escort who after noticing the armed men, made desperate effort to defend Chief, but he was overpowered by the well armed men who had superior fire power.

"They succeeded in kill-

ing the old man after shooting his police escort who was seriously injured and in critical condition at a public hospital in Katsina/Ala at the moment."

"After successfully executing their assignment, the gang fled and the suspicion is that it was that same gang or members of the same group of bandits that raided a beer parlor at a market square in Tor Donga, last night, where 12 persons including a woman, who was the attendant and her one year old baby were killed on the spot.

"After raiding and killing their victims at the drinking spot, the gang sped off on their motorbike and continued shooting indiscriminately at any person they came across. This led to the killing of another seven persons including a teacher in one of the local schools in the community."