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TUESDAY 06 JUNE

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Gunmen kill Inspector, Sergeant in Onitsha

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By Nwabueze Okonkwo

ONITSHA—Gunmen, suspected to be robbers, Sunday evening, killed two policemen at Upper Iweka axis of the commercial city of Onitsha, Anambra State, and allegedly made away with the service rifle of one of them.

The incident, according to a source, occurred at 7.30p.m., when the gunmen on a motorcycle, opened fire on the policemen, who were on a stop-and-search duty at the scene of the incident located near the TRACAS Bus Stop.

The source hinted that one of the deceased, identified as Sergeant Ike Anari, died on the spot while the gunmen took away his service rifle. The other policeman, identified as Inspector Onyia Cyril, died later at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University

Teaching Hospital, NAUTH, Nnewi, where he was hospitalised shortly after the incident.

The deceased policemen, the source further stated, were attached to Operations Department of the state police headquarters, Awka, but were posted to Awada Division within the Onitsha metropolis.

As the news of their death filtered into town, policemen on stop-and-search duty in various parts of Anambra State resorted to compelling *okada* riders to push their motorcycles while passing through the checkpoints.

Efforts to get in touch with the state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Nkiru Nwode, proved abortive as she could not be reached on phone.

But the Divisional Police Officer, Awada, Mr. Babalola and his Divisional Crime Officer, DCO, Amadi, simply confirmed the incident on phone and referred newsmen to appropriate channel for detailed information.



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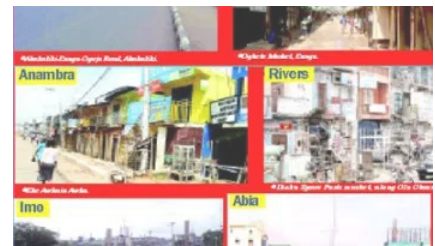
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