

# Many feared dead as gunmen attack Ebonyi community

By Peter Okutu

- Ebonyi govt threatens to re-arrest stakeholders
- Only one person was killed —Police
- We can't say exact figure —Ebonyi govt

**ABAKALIKI**—FOLLOWING the unexpected resurgence of criminal activities in communities of Ezza-Effium and Effium of Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, on Tuesday, which left many dead and others wounded, Ebonyi State government yesterday threatened to re-arrest stakeholders in the area.

While the Police can only confirm one person dead in Tuesday's attack, the state government was yet to come up with an exact figure at press time.

Governor David Umahi of the state, in a bid to find lasting solution to the crisis, had some weeks ago, summoned a peace and reconciliation meeting at the Christian Ecumenical Centre, Abakaliki, involving both sides of the divide even as prominent leaders and stakeholders of the affected communities were arrested and later released.

They were given an assignment by the governor to make peace among their people and in the affected communities.

Reacting, Commissioner for Internal Security, Border Peace and Conflict Resolution, Mr. Stanley Emegha, confirmed the resurgence of criminal activities in the affected communities and threatened that the state government would re-arrest the stakeholders for allowing the crisis to continue.

According to him, "Government has done what it is supposed to do to make sure that the peace, which has lasted for three weeks now is sustained.

"We will find out what is really the problem again that caused this renewed crisis. It is the police on ground there that will tell us how many were killed this morning (Tuesday morning).

"We are not yet sure whether it is up to four or six persons that were killed as people, who are from that place are saying. It is still a rumour until we are sure. But however, it is the duty of the government to provide security and we have deployed more troops to the place.

"I don't know why this thing continued. In fact, the state government will take certain measure that is harder; we will ensure that all the stakeholders are rearrested."

## Only one person was killed —Police

Also, the state Commissioner of Police, Aliyu Garba, confirmed that it was only one person that was reportedly killed in the renewed hostilities in the community.

He said: "Police are doing everything possible to put an end to the crisis in the Effium community. We have understood the modus operandi on how both Ezza-Effium and Effium operate. There is no need to blow the Effium crisis.

"Only one person was killed. And it is as a result of differences between Ezza-Effium and Effium people that are causing this problem."

## Group accuses Effium of breaching ceasefire agreement

In a related development, a group under the aegis of Ezza-Effium Consultative Assembly, ECA, has accused Effumites of breaching the

ceasefire agreement reached in the ongoing reconciliation process put in place by the state government.

The group, in a statement by its chairman and secretary, Mr. Aliqwe Chukwuma and Mr. Bernard Onichi expressed dismay that the crisis had continued despite all efforts by the government to ensure the return of peace and order in the community.

According to them, "First, we wish to publicly condemn this needless crisis and everyone directly or

indirectly behind it. We pray God to expose and punish anybody who has hands in this ongoing pogrom in our dear and once peaceful community.

"However, we have observed with dismay some disturbing developments that we felt there is a need to alert the public before it is too late.

"You could recall that on February 23, 2021, the Governor of Ebonyi State, Dr. David Umahi, convened separate meetings with

stakeholders of Ezza and that of Effum at Ecumenical Centre and the old EXCO Chambers, Government House, Abakaliki, respectively, with the aim of finding lasting solution to the needless crisis that erupted in our community.

"But, it is unfortunate to let the world know that the Effumites ignored the reconciliation efforts of the state government and have continued to attack and kill our people as well as burn down houses belonging to Ezza people."

# Police nab suspected POS robbers, kidnappers in Aba

By Steve Oko

**ABA**—THE Rapid Response Squad, RRS, of Nigeria Police, Aba, has arrested suspected criminals who specialised in robbing Point of Sale, POS, operators in the commercial city.

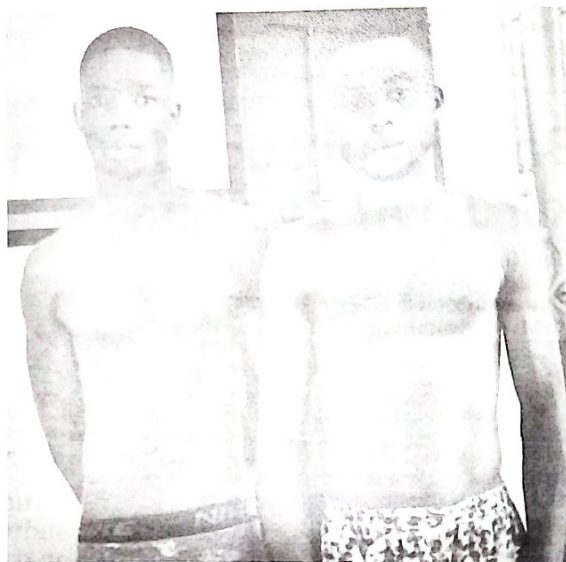
No fewer than seven POS operators have been killed by robbers in Aba since January as they have been the major targets of attacks in recent times.

The suspects, Chima Nnamdi and Uzoma Chinemerem, last Saturday attacked their victim simply identified as Chijoke Ebinlem at Ehi Road by East Street, Aba.

The hoodlums were said to have shot their victim at a close range and later died at the Abia State University Teaching Hospital where he was rushed to for treatment.

The matter was reported to the police, who swiftly swung into action and later picked up the hoodlums following intelligence gathering according to a police source.

In another development, the RRS team also arrested two suspected kidnappers, Ikechi Monday and Onyekachi Orji (7-Star Criminal General) from Oweminta.



The suspected POS robbers.

The suspects allegedly kidnapped a 70-year old woman, Mrs Patricia Nwogu, in her residence at Okpolu Umuobo axis,

Aba, on January 29, 2021.

Police said the suspects, who were arrested on Monday "are giving useful information."

# 5 female illegal immigrants using charms to defraud Nigerians nabbed

By Demola Akinyemi

**LORIN**—FIVE female illegal immigrants using charms to defraud unsuspecting Nigerians have been arrested with their Nigerian driver by the Joint Border Patrol Team, JBPT, North-Central zone in Lokoja, Kogi State capital.

The suspects are Fatima Mohammadu (38) from Niger Republic, Judith Kofi (29) from Ghana, Fanta Camara (30) from Mali, Fadima Taore (37) from Chad, and Fatimata Camara (39) from Benin Republic.

The coordinator of the team, Olugboyega Peters, who disclosed this in Ilorin, Kwara State, yesterday, said the suspects will be handed over to the appropriate authorities in Lokoja for further investigation.

While parading the women, Peters said: "During stop-and-search along Lokoja-Abuja highway, the joint patrol team on February 21, 2021, intercepted one Mazda 626 with number plate, ABJ 187 BF, conveying five women from Zuba, Abuja to Lokoja in Kogi State.

"On searching the vehicle, 15 bundles and 18 pieces of wrappers were found to be concealed in the bonnet and other components of the vehicle.



The suspects.

"The preliminary investigations revealed that the five women are from different countries (Chad, Ghana, Mali and Niger Republic).

"They were found to be illegal immigrants without any means of identification. The investigation further revealed that they operate as a syndicate comprising two groups, specialised in duping and stealing of women wrappers and most times use charm to perpetrate their crimes.

"One group operates in Kaduna and

the other in Kano axis, focusing on big shops selling women wrappers as their targets.

"The two groups came into the country through Katsina and Seme illegal routes.

"The driver of the Mazda 626 Mufutau Woye (34) is a Nigerian from Kwara State but resides in Kubwa, Abuja as a commercial driver.

"The driver was only hired to transport them 'to and fro' Kogi State. Fatima Mohammadu (Nigerian) is the leader of the group."