

# ALLEGED BLOODY REPRISAL: Gunmen storm Rivers hospital, kill 4 patients with bullet wounds, nurse

## \*Police deny involvement

By Davies Iheanachor

Unknown gunmen yesterday killed five persons at Oyiabo Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Four of the victims were said to be patients with bullet wounds receiving treatment at a medical facility in the area while the fifth victim was the nurse treating them.

It was believed that the four victims receiving treatment were among the group of 'unknown gunmen' who killed seven policemen in Rivers State last weekend and fled with bullet wounds.

There were insinuations earlier yesterday that the five persons were killed by a tactical team of the Nigeria Police, who had stormed the hideout where the wounded gunmen were receiving medical attention.

The murdered gunmen were reportedly being treated by the nurse, identified simply as Chichi, at the hidden area of Oyiabo, when the attackers surrounded the building and opened fire on them.

A source, who spoke anonymously, disclosed that one of the victims, who was on drip, sensing danger, attempted to scale the fence, but was gunned down by the invaders.

The source claimed that the gunmen, who came in two vans and a Sienna MPV, gained access into the building and killed the three others receiving treatment, adding that the nurse was caught in the gunfire.

The victims were said to be among the gunmen who recently murdered seven policemen in coordinated attacks on security formations along the East-West Road and Elimbu Police Station.

Sunday Vanguard gathered that the men were trying to get medical treatment for multiple bullet wounds inflicted on them by the police when luck ran out on them.

He said: "Remember that recently gunmen, who disguised as security operatives killed seven policemen when they attacked formations along the East-West Road and the Elimbu Police Station."

"During that attack, the police at Elimbu engaged them in gun battle. They sustained injuries and even abandoned their Hilux van. Those who were wounded ran to their hideout at Irebe side in Oyiabo and hired one Uchechi, a nurse, to treat them."

"The police tracked them to the hideout. Three of them were already on drip. Sensing danger, one of the gunmen scaled the fence but was gunned down by the squad."

"The policemen eventually gained access to the building and met three others on drip. They made efforts to shoot at the police but the policemen gunned them and in the process the lady was hit by a bullet and she died."

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Friday Eboka, when contacted, said the people who carried out the act were not

policemen.

Eboka said police were aware of the development, but that before the Divisional Police Officer in charge of the area and his men could get to the scene, the killers had fled.

He said: "That matter was reported at Oyiabo Police Station. The people involved are not policemen. We heard

that four of them were taking treatment in a clinic before the unknown armed men went there in two Hilux vans and a Sienna."

"They went there and people heard gunshots. Before the police could get there, the gunmen had entered their vehicle and driven away. The policemen met corpses of the four guys and the young woman (nurse). I told the DPO to move those bodies while we investigate the matter."

"But, obviously, they (attackers) are not policemen. If

there must be any operation by the police, it must be reported at the nearest police station. The people that carried out the act are not policemen. They were unknown armed men and not policemen."

"The people they killed were actually receiving treatment for their gun wounds. When the DPO got there, they recovered the receipt of their treatment. They recovered charms. They were receiving treatment for gun wounds. The people that killed them are not policemen."



Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu State (left) during a rescue operation at an accident scene at Ekulu Bridge, Abakpa Nike, Enugu, involving a truck that lost control and fell into a ditch, yesterday.

## Tension in Kaduna as govt moves against strike

### \*Aviation workers to shut down airport

By Lawani Mikairu and Ibrahim Hasan Wuyo

There's palpable tension in Kaduna State as the government and the organised labour are set for showdown over the planned strike action called by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) over the latter's alleged failure to follow laid down rules in the recent sack of some civil servants.

The state government however, said yesterday it had notified security agencies about the planned strike action of the Nigeria Labour Congress, maintaining, necessary steps should be taken to thwart the intention of the organisers, as it would "not succumb to blackmail."

Labour had issued notice of five days warning strike on May 17 as the state government refused to budge.

Meanwhile, aviation unions, namely, National Union of Air Transport Employee, NUATE, National Association of Aircraft Pilots and Engineers, NAAPE, Association of Nigeria Aviation Professionals, ANAP, are to join the five days warning strike declared by the NLC to compel the Kaduna government to rescind its decision to sack workers.

The state government, at a press conference yesterday in Kaduna, addressed by the Head of Service, Bariatu Muhammed and the Commissioner, Local Government and Chief-

taincy Affairs, Alhaji Jafar Sani, dismissed the threat by labour unions to shut down critical services as a futile gesture, warning that it would not condone any disruption of essential services in the state as a result of strike.

The government also said that the warrant of arrest it issued in 2017 of the NLC President Ayuba Wabba, still subsists over alleged vandalism of government facilities.

"As is appropriate, the security agencies have been notified of the plans of some trade unionists to recruit hoodlums, including from other states, to create a destructive spectacle and further their self-serving narrative about public service jobs and insecurity", it alleged.

The government insisted that the sack of civil servants was necessitated by dwindling revenues.

"Thus, it is not sustainable to persist in spending 84% to 96% of its FAAC receipts on salaries and personnel costs as has been the experience of the state since October 2020. This government was not

elected to devote most public funds to paying government workers and treat that as its defining governance mission, to the detriment of developing the state and its people", it said.

The government explained that the rightsizing of the public service would affect political appointees and civil servants. It stressed that it would not, therefore, succumb to the "veritable campaign of lies and misrepresentation" by trade unions on the matter.

In a statement by Comrade Ocheme Aba, General Secretary, NUATE, Comrade Umoh Ofonime, Deputy General Secretary, NAAPE, and Comrade Abdul Razaq Seidu, General Secretary, ANAP, the unions informed their members to stay off their duty posts at the Kaduna International Airport with effect from 12 midnight Sunday till Friday, May 21.

The release read: "We are constrained to inform you that in compliance with the industrial action declared by the Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC, in Kaduna state, our unions as above shall proceed to effect the action as from midnight of Sunday 16th May to Friday 21st May, 2021".

## Gov. Ugwuanyi leads rescue operation at accident scene

Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu State led rescue operation at an accident scene at Ekulu Bridge, Abakpa Nike, Enugu East Local Government Area, where a truck carrying petrol lost control and fell into a ditch.

Prior to the arrival of the governor, Enugu State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Enugu State Fire Service and the Chairman of Enugu East LGA, Hon. Alex Ugwu, had promptly reported to the accident scene to apply safety mea-

sures towards safeguarding lives and property.

Enugu State Government, through SEMA and the State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, also provided a crane and manpower for the removal of the vehicle, evacuation of the product and reopening of the road to vehicular traffic.

Executive Secretary of SEMA, Mrs. Nkechi Eneh, who confirmed one death, urged residents of the area to be calm and law abiding as well as cooperate with the efforts of the state government and the emergency response stakeholders in arresting the situation.

O	B	R	A	D	O	R	B	O	R
Y	E	I	A	U	B	A	R	I	E
E	R	D	O	G	A	N	S	A	W
H	N	E	P	E	S	E	F	T	
M	O	T	S	E	P	E	E	F	T
A	A	K	W	H	E	E	L	E	R
K	O	B	A	G	U	A	B	H	
I	N	A	S	E	H	U	R	I	A
D	C	A	M	F	A	N	I	R	E
E	D	O	E	H	A	N	I	R	E