



## Gunmen set ablaze newly completed INEC office in Imo

THE newly completed office of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, located at Okwudor community in Njaba Local Government Area of Imo State was, yesterday, set ablaze by gunmen.

The arson attack took place about 11:30 am.

INEC Head of Voter Education and Publicity, Emmanuella Opara, said the office, which was built and commissioned shortly before the 2019 general elections, was burnt to a considerable degree.

In a related development, Nigeria Immigration Service head office located in the Ubakala axis of Enugu/Port Harcourt Expressway was reportedly attacked by unknown gunmen, Saturday.

This is coming a few hours after the State Criminal Investigation Department of the Abia State Police command was razed by gunmen.

A resident of the area said there was a huge shooting in the area between the attackers and security operatives.

Efforts to get officials of the Abia State police command to confirm the incident proved abortive at press time.

## NDLEA arrests 10 online drug traffickers, seizes 107kg of cocaine

By Kingsley Omonobi

**ABUJA**—A young lady, her boyfriend and eight others have been arrested by operatives of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, in a renewed onslaught on online drug traffickers in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

The first suspect, 28-year-old Ese Patrick, who sells her illicit substances through an Instagram account, Ese's Oven Secret, was tracked and arrested with some pieces of brownies ordered online by NDLEA's undercover agents, on May 21, 2021 and delivered by herself and her boyfriend in a Mercedes Benz car.

A statement by Femi Babafemi, Director of Media and Advocacy, said: "A follow-up operation at her (Ese's) residence led to the seizure of 400 grams of Arizona weed, which she uses in baking the brownies."

"Further investigation led to the arrest of one Iyama Patrick, with 450 grams of Arizona weed. He supplies Ese with the cannabis she uses."

"A day earlier, a motorcycle belonging to a courier company, Sky Port, was abandoned by a dispatch rider in Wuse Zone 4 upon sighting NDLEA's outpost in the area."

"The motorcycle was later found to contain several pinches of crack cocaine (a.k.a Challee), and some envelopes of Arizona meant for delivery."

"Another online drug trafficker, Peter Nkeijika, was arrested on May 24, 2021 following an arrest of a dispatch rider with some quantity of Loud, a highly psychoactive variant of cannabis."

"Each portion of loud costs N30,000 and the rider was caught with 17 portions for delivery."

# Gunmen kill 54 persons in 5 states

By Peter Duru, Peter Okutu, Ikechukwu Odu, Ola Ajayi & David Odama

**FIFTY** four Nigerians were reportedly killed by suspected herdsmen and gunmen in different attacks carried out in Ebonyi, Benue, Enugu, Nasarawa and Oyo states, but police denied reported killings in Ebonyi state.

The suspected herdsmen, yesterday, attacked Odoke, Ndiobasi and Obakotara communities in Ebonyi Local Government Area of the state where no fewer than 30 Ebonyi indigenes were killed.

The affected communities share a boundary with Ado Local Government Area in Benue State.

A resident in the area, Uchemma Okpokwu, said the herdsmen invaded his community with guns and machetes around 3 am, yesterday.

"They came into Ndiobasi village and started slaughtering people. After slaughtering them, they entered Odoke, from there they went to Obapta."

"Currently, people that were slaughtered in Ndiobasi are up to 30 according to the video clips on the incident but Odoke and Obapta are very far and nobody was able to enter the two villages to capture those that were killed."

"When I received a call from one of my villagers over the attack, he told me that the herdsmen are currently at Ojaba forest and that place is their hideout because there is no other way for them to escape. The herdsmen are currently in that forest as at the time I was called on the phone."

"I was told our local government chairman went with some security men but couldn't get to the affected villages. If there is a way security agents will be sent to the affected villages, it will be good."

"Currently, I have been trying to reach my family members on phone but their lines are not going through and all of them are in the village."

Another resident of the area, Onyibe Jeremiah, lamented that no action was taken to protect the communities despite earlier warnings of the herdsmen's impending attacks.

He said: "One young man from Enugu State that saw the herdsmen when they were coming into the Ebonyi villages made the voice call that went viral to alert the state but it appeared that it was ignored, which was why these attacks were recorded despite the alert."

## 2 children die on way to hospital

The Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team, AMURT, confirmed that two children were killed while being taken to the hospital for treatment.

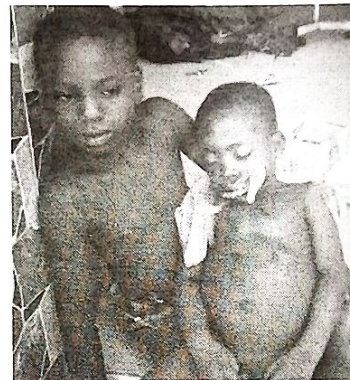
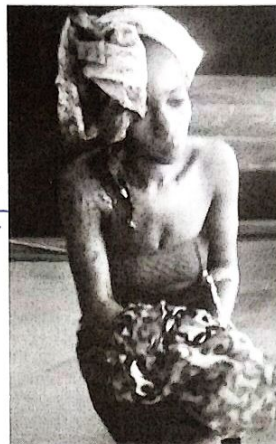
The NGO said it has sent a team to the area to help in the treatment and evacuation of victims.

A statement by AMURT West Africa said: "Terrible scenes at Ohagelode Health Centre this morning. An attack on an Izzi village inside Benue State, allegedly by herdsmen, resulted in many casualties."

"Many were carried to Ohagelode Health Centre. The Uloanwu Ambulance was called and 11 persons, six adults and five children were transported to AEFUTHA in Abakaliki."

"Sadly two children died after reaching AEFUTHA. An AMURT team of doctors, led by Dr Omogo,

•Suspected herdsmen kill 4 villagers in Enugu •Gunmen shoot, stab bizman to death in Ibadan •Pregnant woman killed in Nasarawa •12 killed, many missing in Benue communities



Victims of the attack on Ebonyi indigenes



crossed over to buy and sell as had been the practice over the years and were caught in the crossfire during the attack. There was no attack on any village in Ebonyi LGA as widely reported on some social media platforms and other conventional media outlets."

## 12 killed, many missing in Benue communities

But reports from Ado Local Government Area of Benue State, yesterday, revealed that no fewer than 12 persons were killed by suspected armed herdsmen in simultaneous attacks on communities bordering Ebonyi State, weekend.

The attacks, which led to the disappearance of many and displacement of over 5,000 persons affected Obakoto, Odigwu, Ofianka, Nwedoga, Ibioga, Ndi-Obasi, Odokolen communities in Ekile Council Ward of Ijigban district of Ado LGA.

Vanguard gathered that the invaders also destroyed houses and food barns in the affected communities.

According to the source, "it was around 11 pm on Saturday that we received calls from our people that attackers suspected to be herdsmen had invaded our ward killing and setting houses on fire."

Confirming the attack on Ekile, the Ado Chairman, Oche explained that the attack could be a reprisal for the murder of an elderly herder, Muhammad Isah, about two months ago by suspected militia or IPOB members from neighbouring Ebonyi State in one of the affected communities.

## Suspected herdsmen kill 4 villagers in Enugu

Also, Nkibuji community in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area of Enugu State was, weekend, reportedly attacked by suspected herdsmen that gruesomely murdered no fewer than four persons.

It was gathered that trouble started when the suspected herdsmen were interrupted from cutting down an economic tree to feed their cattle.

The intempest, according to some villagers, who pleaded anonymity, led to a brawl between the community members and the herdsmen.

It was also learned that the community members succeeded in pursuing the nomads and their cattle from further destruction of the economic tree.

However, on what appeared like a calculated revenge mission, the herdsmen

reinforced and attacked the community, killing four persons in the early hours of Friday.

Confirming the incident, spokesperson of Enugu State Police Command, Daniel Nduloke, said the state Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Aliyu, has ordered a discreet investigation to unravel the circumstances surrounding the attack.

## Gunmen shoot, stab bizman to death in Ibadan

In Ibadan, Oyo State capital, a popular Igbo businessman, Lulu Owuamanam, was, Saturday night, shot dead by unknown gunmen.

Vanguard gathered that the assailants waylaid him along Sango Road around 8 pm.

The news of the businessman was broken by his younger brother Jude Owuamanam, who said: "Yes, it is true. They have killed my brother. He was shot dead by some gunmen in Ibadan. The family is in pains now."

It was gathered that the deceased was in his newly acquired Hummer Trova bus with one of his staff when the assailants stopped his vehicle and fired shots at him.

To ensure he did not survive the attack, he was reportedly stabbed severally on the left side of his chest after which they fled the scene.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer DSP Adevale Osifeso, said: "It is true the unfortunate incident happened yesterday (Saturday) night. But I will get the full details for you on Monday (today) because we have commenced investigation into the matter."

## Pregnant woman killed in Nasarawa

A pregnant woman was allegedly killed, Saturday, by suspected gunmen in Abebe village, Agaza district of Keana Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

The gunmen, who were said to be armed with sophisticated weapons, opened fire on the villagers, killing a pregnant woman while others scrambled for safety.

It was gathered that the Abebe village has been under threat by some farmers of Alago extraction from Obi town in Obi Local Government Area of the state whose efforts to forcefully takeover some hectares of farmland belonging to the Tiv farmers of the community have continued to be met with stiff resistance.

Reacting to the incident, the TIDA President, Peter Ahenba, alleged that the attacks and killing of Tiv people of Nasarawa State in the last two months was targeted at chasing them out of the state by some forces.

He condemned the killings and destruction of the Tiv people and urged groups or ethnic nationality with grievances against the Tiv people to involve a civilised approach towards addressing their grievances rather than taking undue advantage of the insecurity situation in the southern part of the state to unleash mayhem on the innocent people which he said was counterproductive and detrimental to the unity, peace and security of the state.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer of the Nasarawa State Command, ASP Ramhan Nansel, denied knowledge of the attack.

He, however, admitted that somebody called him from a village around the alleged attacked Community to intimate him of the incident, but said the command was yet to receive an official report from the said community.