

# How army killed my son, nephew, labeled them unknown gunmen, widow cries out

---

June 5, 2021  
By Urowayino Jeremiah

---

- Demands justice
- Abia elders caution against ethnic cleansing of Igbo youths

- Tell Gov Ikpeazu to stop sitting on fence

By Steve Oko

It is a tale of agony in Abia following last Saturday's attack on the State Police Criminal Investigation Department, CID structure, Umuahia.

A widow, Edith Amadi, 46, narrates how his son, Onyebuchi Anthony Amadi, 27; and nephew, Obinna Onyebuchi Egekwu, 30, were allegedly killed by security personnel in the aftermath of the attack on the State CID by unknown gunmen.

The widow who hails from Oforola in Owerri West Local Government Area of Imo State, lost her husband in 2009.

Narrating her ordeal to our Correspondent in her Umuahia residence, the widow in pensive tone accused the Nigerian Army of murdering her son and others in cold blood.

**READ ALSOICYMI: We deserve SUV, not camrys for oversight functions – Reps**

She said her son, nephew and another boy simply identified as “ Onye Photo” ( photographer) were arrested in their family house at Ugwunchara Umuahia, hours after the attack.

The widow said her son and other victims whisked away from their family house were not members of the gang of the unknown gunmen that allegedly attacked the police station, and wondered the justification in their extra-judicial killing.

Narrating her ordeal she said: “ On that Saturday when my cooking gas finished I called my son and he came in a chattered Keke (tricycle), collected the gas cylinder, went to a gas station, refilled it and returned it to my restaurant at Awolowo street.

“ After refilling the gas he cut the okra for me and asked me to call him when the soup is done. He then returned to the house.

“ After some time, somebody called me and asked me if I was aware of what was happening in town. I said I wasn't. Then we started noticing some strange movements everywhere. People started running here and there.

“ Then I called my son and asked him to check out for Anointing, my 8-year- old grand daughter who I gave soup to take to the house. He now went to look for her.

“ But after a while I saw Anointing running back to the shop and I went and grabbed her. I then called back my son and asked him to return to the house because I have found Anointing.

“ My son then returned to our family house where he was staying with my elder sister. My sister said he retired to his room where he was joined later by our elder brother’s son, Obinna who was returning from work and decided to branch off at the house due to the crisis in town.

“ Both of them were inside the room while my sister, and some of her children were also in the house. But unknown to them soldiers had surrounded the vicinity, breaking into homes and arresting people.

“ Other people in the neighborhood who noticed the development on time ran away but because my son and his cousin were inside the room unaware of the military invasion, they could not run.

“ So the soldiers broke into the compound and asked everybody to lie down. They were breaking into rooms and bringing people out including my sister and her children.

“ They were still lying down there when another boy popularly known as Onye Photo living in the neighborhood was returning home and they forced him to also come over and lie down.

“ Shortly afterwards, they marched three of the boys – my son, his cousin and Onye Photo to unknown destination and left others.

“ Then later that evening we went to the Central Police Station Umuahia in search of them but one Hausa Police officer with long machete chased us away and threatened to kill us if we came closer.

“ Then on Sunday we went to the Army camp at ADP Ossay Umuahia but one man told us not to come close. We later went to Ntigha and Owerrinta but were told Army had no base at Owerrinta.

“ We were planning to go to Ohafia Army barracks on Monday despite the sit-at-home order. But on that Monday the news was on the internet that police said some unknown gunmen were killed and their corpses deposited at the FMC Umuahia.

“ Then when we got to FMC we saw the corpses of our children brutally murdered by security men. The hospital told us to bring papers from the police and our traditional ruler before releasing their bodies to us”.

“My son was not among unknown gunmen. He was a tailor who just completed his apprenticeship. My nephew was running a printing Press and never belonged to any violent group. Nigeria Army has brought misery to my life by killing the most quiet of my children”, she lamented, bursting into cry.

Corroborating her account, the window’s elder sister, Mrs. Ngozi Nwachukwu who was with the victims when they were arrested said it was the most horrifying moment of her life.

She said the Army invaded their house hours after the unknown gunmen had left the scene of attack and started indiscriminate arrest of innocent youths in the vicinity.

Pointing to a little boy of about seven years, Mrs Nwachukwu who was fighting back her tears as she narrated her ordeals said 'the Army even ordered this boy to also lie down with us'."

She demanded justice over the murder of the victims vowing to use her last breath to seek justice.

There were other victims of the alleged extra-judicial killing including a tricycle operator allegedly shot dead inside his 'Keke' by security operatives around ShopRite junction Uwalaka Street on Saturday.

But efforts to get reaction from the Army were unsuccessful as the Deputy Director of Information, Army 14 Brigade Ohafia, Capt. Iliya Dauda did not pick calls put across to him.

As at the time of filing this report, he was also yet to respond to a text message sent to him.

Further efforts to extract response from the Brigade Commander, 14 Brigade Ohafia, Brig. Gen. M Ibrahim did also not yield any fruit as he simply responded: "I am in AHQ Abuja as DD PS".

Similarly, the Police Public Relations Officer PPRO Geoffrey Ogbonna did not pick calls put across to him though they all rang out.

Meanwhile, Abia Elders have called for independent thorough investigation by Abia State Government for the gruesome killings of no fewer than 10 boys and men from their various houses and points, for which nothing has been said about the way they were gruesomely shot dead.

The National President of Abia State Elders Consultative Forum, Archbishop Dr. Ariwodo, described the incident and the security situation in the South East as worrisome, and cautioned against ethnic cleansing of Igbo youths.

"This is necessary, at least to comfort the family members who are in uncontrollable agony and pain for this irreparable losses", he said.

He called on Gov. Okezie Ikpeazu "to wake up from this afternoon dream of sitting on the fence and defend the people that risked their lives to vote for him".

His words: "It will become a betrayal of trust, if he will continue to keep quiet for so long while the Northern agenda to use the law enforcement agencies to cleanse Igbo innocent youths and men are forcefully and helplessly being carried out under our nose and watch.

Bishop Ariwodo said that "Abia Elders are thankful and grateful to Governor Obiano for the instant arrest of the killers of the President General, of Nimo Development Union who was killed by now known gun men. May God bless him".

"Finally, Abia Elders are calling on the Governor of Abia state to constitute a high powered, fearless and credible men of impeccable integrity to investigate and make public the report of the gruesome killing of four innocent Abians by security agents.

"They are Onyebuchi Anthony Amadi, Obinna Onyebuchi the prosperous printer in Umuahia, The photographer, the Keke man who was shot dead on the steering in his Keke at Owerri by Uwalaka road."

Efforts to get a response from the state government failed as the Commissioner for Information Chief John Okiyi Kalu in a text message told our Correspondent that he was away from the state.

The cell phone of the Commissioner for Homeland Security, Chief Dan Okoli was not reachable when our Correspondent tried to reach him.

## Disclaimer

Comments expressed here do not reflect the opinions of vanguard newspapers or any employee thereof.