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Gunmen kill 5 cops, raze police station in Anambra • Attack lawmaker's convoy, kill driver

By Chimaobi Nwaiwu

NEWI UNKNOWN gunmen, yesterday attacked Ajali Police Station in Orumba North Local Government Area, Anambra State, killing five policemen, and setting the station ablaze.

The convoy of the member representing Nnewi North/Nnewi South and Ekwusigo Federal Constituency, Chris Azubogu, was also attacked with the reported killing of his driver.

Azubogu was attacked on Ninewi Nnobi Road on his way back to Nnewi from Awka after his formal declaration for the All Progressives Congress, APC, according to Vanguard source.

An eyewitness informed that the gunmen drove in two Sienna vehicles and one Lexus jeep.

The eyewitness said the attack of Azubogu occurred in front of St Paul's Anglican Church, Nnobi, in Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Ajali, the headquarters of Orumba North Local Government Area, is the home town of former Chairman, National Electoral Commission, NEC, Humphrey Nwosu.

Vanguard gathered that the gunmen who were dressed in red T-Shirts and black Jean trousers, storm the Police station in a Lexus car, and shot their way into the Police station after killing a policeman that accosted them on entry and a civilian.

The gunmen were said to have released all the people detained in the Police Station and ordered them to leave the premises of the station without further delay or have their lives snuffed out

An eye witness told *Vanguard* that the road leading to Oko, a nearby town to Ajali, was cordoned off by security men who were engaged in a gun duel by the rampaging gunmen.

The incident, according to the eyewitness, threw the entire Ajali, Akpu and other neighbouring towns into fear and confusion.

On the attack of Azubogu, the driver of one of the vehicles with number plates, Abuja ABC 307 CM was said to have been shot dead instantly, while the black car in which Azubogu was supposedly driven had several gunshots.

Azubogu was said to have been abducted, but another account said he was not in the convoy, but a police orderly was said to have escaped unhurt.

The gunmen were also said to have collected guns from security men at Roban Stores situated along Nnewi-Nnobi road after attacking the lawmaker's convoy and zoomed off.

As at the time of filing this report, the blue Toyota car with the Abuja number and the black jeep with bullet holes were still at the scene of the incident while the dead driver's body had not been removed.

Newspapers, documents bearing 'Mr Project', Azubogu's pet name, were among documents that littered the road.

The Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr Ikenga Tochukwu, did not pick calls put across to him.

2 suspected kidnappers killed, another nabbed in Lagos

By Esther Onyegbula

Lkidnappers were killed at their criminal hideout in a deep forest in Imota. Emuren area of Lagos State by operatives of the State Police Command, while one was arrested.

Parading the suspects at the state police command, the State Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, revealed that the suspects were allegedly responsible for the kidnap of some residents including Lukman Onabanjo (aka Bugon), who was abducted recently and ransom collected.

Showcasing the remains of suspected kidnappers, at Command Headquarters. Ikeja, Odumosu said: "The successful operation started at about 11.50 Wednesday night after days of intelligence monitoring on the gang.

"In a well-planned, highly coordinated and carefully executed operation which lasted for some hours, operatives of the command's tactical teams in collaboration with the Imota Police Division busted the armed gang in its criminal hideout located in the heart of the deep forest."

Recounting how the operations were carried out inside the criminal hideout in Imota forest in the Emuren area of the State, Odumosu said, "on sighting police operatives, the dare-devil kidnappers engaged them in a shoot out that lasted for some hours. Determined to smoke out the kidnappers, the operatives returned the heavy fire.

"In the ensuing gun battle, two of the suspected armed kidnappers were fatally injured; both later gave up the ghost while being conveyed to the hospital for medical attention. While one was arrested alive and others escaped with bullet wounds."

He said two AK-47 rifles, three AK-47 magazines with 46 ammunition, a dagger, N10, 000, one itel phone and one MTN SIM card were recovered from the suspects.

The CP said the Command has discovered that the hoodlums used waterways to ferry their victims adding that adequate security measures have been put in place on waterways.



FAILED: The deplorable condition of the Benin - Warri highway. Photo: Barnabas Uzosike.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT: Two suspected homosexuals escape lynching in P-Harcourt public toilet

By Davies Iheamnachor

PORT HARCOURT— TWO suspected homosexuals, yesterday, escaped death by the whiskers when they were caught in unknowing to me, the next person who stood by him was his sexual partner.

"The man entered, followed by his partner, and some minutes afterwards we started hearing loud moaning.

"When we peeped, we saw them

came in, I saw a crowd, all of them were eager to beat the young but I asked them not to. When I saw the situation and noticed the crowd wanted to overpower me, I had to call the police."