

Hoodlums kill Imo retired police officer, cut his throat in farm

By Chinonso Alozie

3 **O**WERRI— Hoodlums said to be operating within Agwa, Izombe and Egbema in Ohaji/Egbema and Oguta Local Government Areas of Imo State, have kidnapped a retired police officer, Chris Kpatuma (Hipis) in the area and killed him as well as cut off his throat in a farm in the village and brought back his lifeless body to his house.

Vanguard gathered the incident that happened last Tuesday night at Mgbala autonomous community in Agwa clan in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State, has caused tension within the community.

To this extent, *Vanguard* reached the family of the deceased and the incident was confirmed by the wife, Blessing Kpatuma.

She said: "My husband was beaten by the hoodlums and taken to an unknown place. They killed him, brought his lifeless body back home."

Also, *Vanguard* called the traditional ruler of the area, Eze Blaise Ubah, who confirmed the incident but did not say much about it. "The family has reported the matter to the police," he said.

However, an eyewitness from the village who spoke to *Vanguard* said: "A prominent person, a retired police officer, Chris Kpatuma (Hipis) was murdered in cold blood in Mgbala Agwa Autonomous Community by hoodlums.

"The hoodlums are said to be a group of people from the various communities in Agwa, Izombe and Egbema (all in Oguta and Ohaji/Egbema LGAs).

"They waylaid the man at his gate in the village, shot him, took his body to the farm area, slit his throat and returned his body. In November, this same group killed a youth called Chimobi Duru, who was also a torn on the community."