

5 killed as hoodlums attack Abia community

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UMUAHIA—At least five persons were confirmed killed in Amangwu Ohafia in Ohafia Local Government Area of Abia State by hoodlums who claimed to be members of Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB.

Houses were also set ablaze while others were destroyed including the house of the Ezeogo Amangwu, HRM Ezeogo Elder Mecha Ugbu Mecha.

It was gathered that the hoodlums invaded the community last Sunday and have been attacking, killing, burning and destroying houses till yesterday.

One of the villagers said one Ebi from Amangwu Ohafia said to be a dismissed member of IPOB allegedly went to a shop where they charge phones at the village square, unfortunately, the generator had issues and could not start even when several persons tried their hands.

Ebi decided to give it a trial and in the process the generator's starter cut in the process of pulling it, his hand was said to have hit an IPOB member who



One of the burnt houses.

was standing behind him.

The IPOB member got infuriated, which resulted in a fight.

The said IPOB man was said to have run to a nearby house to get his gun, rushed back to the scene of the incident and started shooting in the direction of the Amangwu youth, who had already fled the scene. In the process, two persons were reportedly killed.

Angered by the killing, Amangwu

youths regrouped to attack the IPOB members who had also reinforced.

The incident, which started around 7.00pm on Sunday lasted till the following day. And by Monday five Amangwu indigenes have been confirmed killed, while many others had since fled the community, while one person is lying critical in a medical facility in Umuahia.

In a telephone interview, chairman

of Ohafia council, Dr Okorafor Ukiwe, who said he was at the Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia, said the victim, who sustained a bullet injury just came out of the theatre where she was operated upon.

He gave the names of the deceased as Ucha Ndukwe, Inyang Ndukwe, Ndubuisi Ndukwe and Kalu Umah.

In his words, "The victim lost her mother and a sister, who were shot in their house by the gunmen. I am just leaving the Intensive Care Unit of FMC where I went to see the female victim who is battling for her life. She has just been operated on to remove the bullets in her body.

"The gunmen killed her mother and her sister in their house after they (hoodlums) burnt down her mother's shop.

"The other group felt that the woman, who sold food in the community was not in support of their activities in the community. They went to her shop and burnt it down, came to her house and gunned her down and when two of her daughters came out, they shot them."

When contacted, the spokesman of Abia State Command, Geoffrey Ogbonna, said he did have details yet