

Gunmen behead 2 soldiers, kill policeman, 4 others in Imo, Anambra

By Vincent Ujumadu

OWERRI—GUNMEN have allegedly killed two soldiers at an unknown location in Imo State, a policeman, two brothers and two others in Anambra State.

The victims, A. M. Linus, said to be a sergeant of the Nigerian Army, and his unidentified wife, said to be a Lance Corporal, were reportedly beheaded after being shot dead by the gunmen.

Their corpses were said to have been dismembered by the gunmen. A gory image of their heads has gone viral on various social media platforms.

A phone conversation with the suspected gunmen, believed to have been initiated by a friend to the slain female soldier, has surfaced online.

In the phone conversation, obtained by PREMIUM TIMES, a suspected gunman admitted that he killed the couple.

The gunman said they were aggrieved that the military has been consistently killing innocent residents in efforts to attack them (gunmen).

"It's quite unfortunate that it is this way. I killed both of them yesterday," the suspected gunman was heard saying in the phone conversation.

As the caller burst into tears after hearing that her friend and her husband had been killed by the gunmen, the gunman was heard making a joke of her.

Confirming the attack yesterday, Army spokesperson, Onyema Nwachukwu, said military authorities have received information about the killing of two of their personnel.

Nwachukwu said the military personnel were travelling for their "traditional marriage formalities" in Imo State when they were attacked by the gunmen.

"This is a very dastardly act unleashed on our personnel by some criminals," he said in a text message in response to enquiry on the incident.

The army spokesperson said authorities of the Nigerian Army had commenced investigations "to unmask and bring to book the criminals behind the murder."

Policeman, 4 others killed in Anambra

Meanwhile, gunmen yesterday killed a policeman, two brothers and one other unidentified person at the notorious Ukpok/Ozubulu axis of Anambra State.



The two soldiers killed in Imo.

Anambra State Police Public Relations Officer, Tochukwu Ikenga, who confirmed the incident said the state police command received information of two lifeless bodies on the Nnewi/Ozubulu Road yesterday,

adding that the command's operatives quickly went there and recovered the two bodies.

According to him, preliminary investigation revealed that one of them was a policeman, while the identity of

the other victim was yet to be established.

"We also recovered a Toyota Camry car allegedly belonging to one of the deceased. Operatives are there and the situation is being monitored. For now, that is the much we know," he said.

It was gathered that the gunmen unleashed mayhem in the area in the early hours of yesterday, sending panic to the community.

It was also gathered that the two brothers were killed at Ukpok, the headquarters of Nnewi South LGA of the state, while the other two were murdered on the Ukpok Road, beside St. Mary's Church, Ozubulu, in Ekwusigbo LGA.

The siblings were identified as Godwin Modobi and Nnajiolor Modobi, who hailed from Umuhu village in Ukpok.

An indigene of the area said: "Godwin was a direct younger brother to Nnajiolor, who is a former youth leader in the community."

"The gunmen first killed Nnajiolor right in their family house when they invaded their home in the early hours of today (Monday), after which they blindfolded and abducted the younger brother, who they eventually killed close to Ukpok Junction and dumped his corpse at the centre of the road."

Train attack: Buhari tasks NRC to set up situation room to coordinate rescue efforts

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA—PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari, yesterday, asked authorities at the Nigerian Railway Corporation, NRC, to immediately set up a situation room for the coordination of the rescue efforts for hostages taken by terrorists during the train attack in Kaduna on March 28, 2022.

Buhari gave the directive while hosting some residents of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, who paid the traditional Sallah homage on him at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

The president in a statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, said the government would explore every opportunity to secure the captives alive and unhurt, adding that the advice to the NRC to set up a situation room was to provide more regular and detailed information to families.

He noted that even as Muslims

across the country were celebrating the end of the Ramadan fasting, the fact that many other families, whose loved ones were being held in captivity by criminal elements, was not lost on the administration, recalling that he had recently directed security agencies to effect the rescue of all hostages in all parts of the country.

The statement quoted the president as saying: "As we celebrate this occasion with joy amidst friends and family members, we are fully conscious of the fact that many families in our country are in a state of fear and anxiety on account of the many captives held by terrorists against their will, including those taken away after the tragic bombing of the Abuja-Kaduna train."

"I have directed security agencies to ensure quick and safe recovery of all victims of kidnapping. I urge the railway management to immediately set up a

situation room for the coordination of the rescue mission and for a minute-by-minute engagement with the families of the captives.

"This should ease their pain and anxiety as we push the military to finding a safe return to their families. My aim is to see all those in captivity safely rescued."

"Let me assure Nigerians that the bandits are just pushing their luck, but this is only for a while before they are finally crushed. They are using civilians as human shields, thereby making it difficult to confront them directly."

According to the President, bandits and terrorists, unlike professional soldiers, don't respect the rules of engagement and can resort to harming hostages when attacked.

"They don't care about killing their hostages if they come under attack. It's a delicate situation that