

Soldier stabs man to death in Abia

• *Many feared dead as soldiers, youths clash in Imo*

By Ugochukwu Alaribe & Chinonso Alozie

UMUAHIA—A soldier attached to a Chinese construction company, weekend, reportedly stabbed a man, identified as Offor Uchenna, to death in Umuahia, Abia State.

Vanguard gathered that a disagreement had ensued between the duo at the railway station, in Umuahia.

A shop owner in the area, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the soldier, whose name was given as Saeed Sabo, of the 82 Division, Nigerian Army, Enugu, drew a knife and stabbed the victim in the chest region.

The victim collapsed in a pool of his own blood and was taken to the Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia, where he was confirmed dead.

"Nobody can tell the cause of the disagreement between the soldier and the dead man. We were watching from afar as they were shouting at each other.

"As they shouted, the soldier drew a small knife and stabbed the man on the chest and he collapsed. He was rushed to the hospital, but we heard he died before they got to FMC," the shop owner said.

Vanguard further gathered that the soldier was arrested and handed over to the Police while the corpse has been deposited at the mortuary.

Contacted, Police Public Relations Officer, Abia State Command, SP Geoffrey Ogbonna, who confirmed the incident, stated that investigation has commenced on the matter.

5 In a related development, many were feared dead as soldiers and youths clashed in Izombe, Oguta Local Government Area of Imo state.

It was gathered, yesterday, that the battle

started last Saturday after suspected youths in the area attacked and killed a truck driver.

The incident resulted to increase in the security patrol in the affected community.

Also, confirming the incident, Spokesperson of the 34 Artillery Brigade, Obinze, Captain Joseph Akubo, said: "The soldiers were on routine patrol in the area when they came under attack by the youths.

"Two days ago, a Dangote Truck driver was killed coupled with other criminal activities, which had necessitated increased patrol. So as the soldiers were on normal exercise, they came under attack.

"I cannot tell you the casualty figure because the youth are still attacking our men and taking cover in the buildings in the neighbourhood."

At the time of filing this report, some residents of Izombe said: "The battle is still ongoing. Some youths were fighting with the soldiers. Many people have fled from their homes. There is tension in the community.

"As I am talking to you our mothers, children have run away. The presence of security men is much. Let us watch out what will happen in the few days."