

Vigilante shoots man dead for wooing girlfriend in Rivers

●Most OSPAC vigilantes are criminals —Police

By Egufe Yafugborhi

PORT HARCOURT— THE Police Command in Rivers State has said they were handling a case in which a vigilante shot a man dead for making advances at his girlfriend.

Briefing newsmen in Port Harcourt, state Commissioner of Police, Nwonyi Emeka, warned against excesses of vigilantes in the state, as the Police tagged most members of popular vigilante group, the Onelga Security Peace Advisory Committee, OSPAC, as criminals.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Victor Eriwede, in charge of the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department, SCIID, said: "There are many human rights abuses by the vigilante group.

"OSPAC started well, but derailed when they began taking contracts from political leaders. If I have my way, I will tell the CP to review OSPAC as a vigilante group.

"Many of the OSPAC are criminals. I have a case on my table where a vigilante member shot a man dead because the man spoke to his girlfriend."

In the riot act he read to vigilantes across the state, CP Emeka acknowledged that "Vigilante in crime fighting in Rivers has come to stay. While we like their activities, we are concerned about their excesses.

"We will not tolerate jungle justice from vigilantes. We cannot have a group of people to protect life and property, and same people are the ones killing, beheading. Tyranny among vigilantes must be curtailed.

"They are not a force unit themselves. For instance, we have situations where they turn to debt collectors, flogging people. Your duty is to arrest and share information.

"You don't have power to detain and investigate. If a person is condemned by court

for hanging, and the person is shot, the person who shot him has committed murder"

Chairmen of Omuma, Ikwerre, Etche, Port Harcourt, Obio/Akpor Local Governments, traditional rulers, youth leaders, vigilance groups were present on the occasion.

Alleged ritual killing: Police rescue 2 from lynching in Anambra

By Vincent Ujumadu

AWKA—THE Anambra State Police Command has rescued two persons from being lynched by a mob in Ihiala local government area of the state over an allegation that they killed three persons for a money ritual.

In a trending video, the suspects, a male and a female, were seen being paraded naked by the mob and forced to carry the dead persons in a wheelbarrow, while the crowd followed them.

They were at the point of being beheaded and set ablaze before the police intervened.

Those filming the incident said the man and the woman, who they accused of being yahoo ritualists, had killed the three persons to use them for money rituals before they were caught by the villagers.

However, the state Police command said it was not a case of money ritual, but pure murder.

In a statement in Awka, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Tochukwu Ikenga, said: "The command operatives yesterday, 7/6/2023, rescued two victims and a suspect who was about to be lynched by an angry mob at the Total filling station junction, Ihiala.

"To set the records straight, it is not a case of ritual killing, but a pure incident of murder."

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