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Again, gunmen murder ASP, Inspector in Enugu Police patrol ambush

ENUGU—BARELY twenty-four hours after gunmen attacked and killed security operatives in Imo State on Tuesday, two officers of the Police Mobile Force have been killed while another sustained bullet injuries, following an attack by gunmen in Enugu State on Wednesday.

It was gathered that the incident happened at about 7:30 pm on Wednesday, along the Udi-Ozalla Road when security operatives attached to the Operation Restore Peace Enugu team were on routine patrol.

This came as the gunmen suspected to have led the operation that allegedly killed five security officers, at Umuezeala Owerre in Ehime Mbano Council area of Imo State, have disclosed their location from where they were said to have launched the last Tuesday's attacks, saying that they could be reached from Isinweke in Ihitte Uboma council area of Imo State, linking to Abia State.

In the latest Enugu attack on Wednesday, the officers killed included Danjuma Joseph, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, ASP, and Inspector Abu Elamaje.

A doctor at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, UNTH, Ituku-Ozalla, said the officers were rushed to the facility, where they were confirmed dead.

While their bodies were deposited at the hospital's mortuary, the injured officer, Inspector Udemeng, who sustained bullet wounds, was treated and discharged.

The State Police Command has not issued any statement on the incident but a police source, who confirmed the attack, said efforts were ongoing to apprehend the fleeing attackers.

"My command and other Command tactical teams reinforced at the area of the incident on cordon and search operation for possible arrest of suspects. Further development shall be communicated," the source added.

Attackers ask Uzodimma to come for negotiation, disclose location

In a viral video, yesterday, the attackers claimed the name 'Biafra Revolution'.

They went on to accuse the governors of the South East region of knowing what to do to end insecurity in the region but pretending over it.

- Imo attackers ask Uzodimma to come for negotiation, disclose location
- Over 50 shops, hotels, markets set ablaze in Imo
- Our youths must be wise not to be used for criminality —Police
- Police in charge of internal security —Army
- We seek community collaboration to capture killers —Govt

According to the gunmen, "Hope Uzodimma, you know how to solve this problem. You have to follow the due process. You are preparing for an election in Imo State, but there will be no election in Imo State, and Igbo land. The governors of the South East region should come together, they know how to solve this problem. You

governors know what to do but you have refused to do it. If you want to see or visit us, come to Isinweke in Ihitte Uboma/Umuahia road."

In another development, suspected armed men said to be in a reprisal attack set ablaze local markets, shops, houses, eatery, guest house at Oriendu, Eke Nku,

in Umualumaku Umueze in Ehime Mbano council area of Imo State. This was confirmed in a viral video on Wednesday in Owerri.

This followed last Tuesday's attacks, at Umuezeala Owerre in Ehime Mbano Council area of Imo State, where the Police confirmed that five combined security officers of NDLEA, NSCDC, Police, Air Force officers were killed and

burnt by gunmen.

However, an eyewitness from Umueze, alleged that the reprisal attack took place at about 04:40 pm on Wednesday.

Some of the affected persons whose properties were damaged include but are limited to Ehime Mbano Guest House, Sunshine Fashion outfit, catering and decoration shops, and Classic Restaurant and Bar owned by one Zago Obi.

The eyewitness said: "Our people saw them and ran away. They started destroying our shops and properties. They burnt our shops. They destroyed the Ehime Mbano Guest House.

"We had to run away. We have abandoned our homes. Some of us are now in the bushes. We are afraid. We can't come back home. Our people have lost millions in the properties destroyed. We are in pain now. Let the world come and see what we are passing through."

Another resident, said: "They have crumbled us. We have been rendered useless. Our businesses have gone. We do not know where to start from. I am in pain. The whole world should come and see. Our people have been destroyed. Our houses and businesses were set on fire."

Responding briefly to the message from the suspect, the state Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Henry Okoye, advised the young people not to allow themselves to be used.

"Our youth must be wise and say no to criminality or allowing themselves to be used as pawns," he said.

The Army Public Relations Officer, 34 Artillery Brigade, Obinze, Captain Joseph Akubo, distanced the Army from the alleged destruction at Ehime Mbano LGA, adding that: "The Police are in charge of internal security operations and as such, all questions should be directed to the Imo State Police Command. They are the lead agency for internal security operations."

On the position Governor Hope Uzodimma, regarding the killing, he said: "The State Government in collaboration with security agencies would fish out the perpetrators to bring them to book. However, we urge the leaders and people of the communities in the area to avail the government and security agencies of the vital information they need to do their work."

MEETING: His Majesty, Ogiame Atuwatse III, Olu of Warri Kingdom (left) and President Bola Tinubu at the ongoing United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York.

