

Tension as hoodlums behead policeman in A-Ibom

By Egufe Yafugborhi & Chioma Onuegbu

UYO—THE beheading of a police personnel identified as Inspector Osang by hoodlums numbering over 10 is currently generating fear among the residents of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State capital.

It was gathered yesterday, that the incident occurred about 8:30p.m., on Wednesday in his residence, located on a street which links Even Afaha and Afaha Ube, a suburb in Uyo metropolis.

Although facts surrounding his death were still sketchy at press time, sources from the area told newsmen that the assailants bearing arms stormed the residence of their victim, shooting sporadically.

The shooting, according to a source, caused most of the residents and passersby to run for safety.

State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Odiko MacDon, who confirmed the incident, said: "We have received that information and it is an unfortunate situation.

"Already, investigation is ongoing and we are

committed to ridding the streets of criminal elements. Again, we are not deterred and we are committed to ensuring that, criminal minded persons will account for their actions."

The Wednesday killing has brought the number of

gruesome killings in the state to four in the past two weeks.

It will recalled that a young lady's body was dismembered, tucked in a Ghana-Must-Go bag and dumped by the roadside along Nwaniba area last

week.

Similarly, a woman was reportedly killed at the Banking Layout, Udo Udoma Avenue while a man's lifeless body was dumped at Ikot Oku Ikono junction in the Uyo metropolitan, two weeks ago.

Court remands Osun park mgt member in prison

By Shina Abubakar

Osogbo —A Federal High Court sitting in Osogbo, Osun State has ordered that a member of Osun Park Management Disciplinary Committee, Oyeyemi Olalekan, be remanded in prison custody.

Olalekan was arraigned, yesterday, on 11-count charge but his counsel, Edmund Biriomoni, challenged the jurisdiction of the court to entertain the case.

When the matter was called, Biriomoni objected that the defendant cannot be docked

as the court lacked jurisdiction to take his pleas on some of the counts in the charge sheet.

The counsel, said: "We were served with an 11-count charge. We are challenging the jurisdiction of the court to entertain the matter. We are challenging the jurisdiction of the court to take the plea of the defendant on counts four to eight which bother on murder.

"We filed a preliminary objection to the first charge that has murder from number one to four, however, the prosecutor substituted the charge, changing the ordering of the counts."

The prosecutor, Umar Alli, has earlier prayed the court to withdraw a charge dated October 16, 2023, before it and substitute it with a charge dated January 31, 2024, contending that objection can only be raised after the plea had been taken.

After the withdrawal and substitution of the charge, counsel to the defendant also withdrew the preliminary objection to the first charge.

Justice Ayoola, thereafter, ordered the remand of the defendant in Ile-Ife prison and directed his counsel to file his objection.

The court subsequently adjourned the case to March 5.

More Nigerians seeking asylum in Belgium

—Rosemont

"Once in Belgium, they apply for asylum, but it makes little

"According to recent statistics from the Belgian authorities, the