

# Protest against hotelier, soldier over killing of youth in Imo

By Chinonso Alozie

**OWERRI** Angry youths yesterday set ablaze a section of the "Our Guest Hotel" in Obowo Local Government Area of Imo State, where a young man was allegedly tortured to death on Saturday.

It was gathered that the youth, whose name was given as Ebuka Nwneri, was tortured to death by a hotelier and a soldier on Saturday.

A community source claimed that Nwneri was tortured and locked up in a generator house of a hotel described as "Our Guest hotel," where he was said to have died.

The deceased was accused of stealing a phone said to belonged to the soldier, who came to the hotel to "catch fun."

As a result, the deceased was said to have been summoned by the hotelier and the soldier, after interrogation, and it was followed by "torture" of Nwneri, who was locked in a generator house.

A community source told *Vanguard*, "Those who tortured, locked up the deceased in a generator house include the owner of the hotel, a soldier and one other guy. They accused the deceased of stealing a phone belonging to the soldier. They invited the guy (Ebuka Nwneri). They beat him up and locked him up in a generator house. He died there. The youths are now protesting and threatening that they will destroy the hotel."

Meanwhile, state Police Command has arrested the owner of the hotel, one Ibe Obasi.

According to the state Police Public Relations Officer, Henry Okoye, "Operatives of Obowo Divisional Headquarters have arrested the owner of 'Our Guest House,' Umulogho, Obowo, Mr. Ibe Obasi, 38 years,



The protesters.

## Military airstrikes kill scores of terrorists in Katsina, Borno

By Kingsley Omonobi

**AIRSTRIKES** by the Air Components of Operation Hadarin Daji and Hadin Kai have killed scores of terrorists and destroyed their logistics bases in Katsina and Borno States.

Air Vice Marshal Edward Gabkwet, Director of NAF Public Relations and Information made this known, yesterday, noting that the strikes conducted, weekend, denied the terrorists freedom of movement aimed at targeting soft targets, especially innocent civilians.

He said: "One of such strikes was carried out under Operation Hadarin Daji on April 5, 2024, at a terrorist enclave located Northwest of Yartsamiya Village

in Danmusa LGA of Katsina State.

"At the location, a set of 11 armed terrorists were sighted moving towards a mountainous area.

"Soon after, two separate sets of terrorists joined the first set of terrorists, and all were observed heading towards the same direction towards the mountainous high ground.

"The need not to let the opportunity of neutralising the terrorists thus became imperative.

"Subsequently, the terrorists were effectively engaged by NAF aircraft in several passes with several neutralized and the few survivors scampering in disarray.

"Also, air strikes by the Air Component of Operation Hadin Kai in the early hours of April 6, 2024, at Grazah in Gwoza LGA of Borno State also yielded the requisite outcome.

"Previous intelligence had revealed that Grazah, previously known as a hideout for

who was allegedly involved in the murder of a 25-year-old Ebuka Udemba, an indigene of Umuokpa in Obowo LGA of Imo State.

"Preliminary investigations revealed that the victim was tortured and locked up inside the generator room of the said guest house by the suspect and two others at large, where he suffocated to death, on the accusation of stealing a customer's handset.

"Accordingly, the suspect has been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, Owerri, for consolidation of the ongoing investigation. He has provided useful information that will assist the determined operatives in arresting all the suspects in connection to the case."

terrorists, was converted into a logistics storage hub and an area for fabricating their Improvised Explosive Devices and other ammunition.

"Recent intelligence also revealed significant terrorists' activities consistent with terrorists' behaviour around some makeshift structures at the location.

"Consequently, air interdiction was conducted at the location with Battle Damage Assessment footages and feedback received revealing several terrorists neutralised.

"These operations, carried out deep into terrorists' enclaves, will continue as these areas are believed to aid their recruitment, training and nurturing of potential terrorists.

"Attacking their logistics hubs also help in reducing their ability to carry out massive attacks, especially on innocent civilians and troop's location.

"The provision of timely information and intelligence by the populace has also been key to the successes recorded and would remain so if sustained."