

Kidnappers kill Catechist, abduct 2 in Enugu

● 3 killed in fresh Anambra rival cult clash

By Dennis Agbo

1 THE Catechist of All Saints Anglican Church Onicha-Ebia Ikem, Isi-Uzo Local Government Area of Enugu State, Mr. Chinaza Odumejeogu, has been killed between Sunday night and Monday by suspected kidnappers.

2 This came as a clash between two rival cult groups in Anambra State has resulted in the untimely death of at least three persons.

The kidnappers are, however, in possession of two victims, Mr. John Ede and her daughter whom they reportedly abducted at Umueje, Ikem-Etiti yesterday morning in their farm.

On Sunday night, the bandits abducted Mrs. Benedicta Abonyi at her home in Ikem-Uno, behind Ikem General Hospital but she escaped following return of fire from the police, the army and the Neighborhood Watch vigilantes in the community.

The Anglican catechist was reportedly kidnapped in his farm on Monday morning with his son, who escaped with bullet wound on his leg and is presently receiving treatment in a private hospital with Mrs. Abonyi who also escaped on Sunday night.

The catechist was, however, not lucky as his abductors shot him to death and left him in a bush path towards Benue State where the combined forces of the police, army and local vigilantes while searching the bushes and houses saw his corpse, picked it and deposited it in a morgue.

According to an eyewitness, "a young girl's motorcycle was snatched from her. She was the one that told us that the kidnappers were four in number. She was the one that told us the road they followed and that was how we recovered the corpse of the catechist."

"But the woman, who escaped from them Sunday night said they were seven in number. She is the one who identified them as Fulani."

"The woman escaped because they were shooting and we were returning fire too, so the kidnappers thought we were closing in on them and they released the woman and ran away."

The Enugu State Police Public Relations Officer, Daniel Ndukwe, failed to confirm the incident in a message sent to him via his mobile phone.

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2 Anambra rival cult clash

Reports revealed that the incident happened on Sunday at Eke Awka market, in the state capital.

Although details of casualties were still sketchy, residents and passers-by said one of the attacks started in the presence of traders at Eke Awka market.

It was gathered that two tricycles were pursuing themselves recklessly along Zik's Avenue, Eke Awka before one of them got stuck.

One of the sources said: "Some boys alighted from the tricycle and started pursuing themselves and in the process started firing gunshots."

"They were pursuing themselves. Around Eke Awka market, the tricycle at the front got stuck in the traffic, and one boy on it alighted and started running."

"Two boys in the tricycle behind also jumped down and pursued him. He ran towards Parker area along Ziks Avenue, and diverted onto a road by the right, into a mechanic workshop."

"The boys pursued him into the place, dragged him out and shot him dead. The incident caused pandemonium, and people were just running in all

directions. For me, I didn't even know I could run that fast."

However, operatives from the state Police Command have denied knowledge of any killing in the incident.

Contacted, spokesperson for the Anambra State Police Command, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, told the media that there was no such information before the command.

A similar incident happened last Sunday, which was Easter day when no fewer than six persons were reportedly killed in the area.

58-yr-old Onitsha library fast decaying, needs renovation —Nwoye

By Anayo Okoli & Chimaobi Nwaiwu

SENATOR Tony Nwoye representing Anambra North Senatorial Zone in the National Assembly has decried the level of infrastructural decay going on at the famous Onitsha Library and called on Governor Chukwuma Soludo to rehabilitate it.

Nwoye, who paid an unscheduled visit to the library, was shocked at

the state of the infrastructure in the library, which was commissioned in 1966 by the then Military Administrator of the defunct Eastern Nigeria, the late Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu.

The senator, who was conducted around all the departments of the library during the visit said the library is going through "terrible infrastructural decay" and promised to assist in fixing the library.

He said: "What I have seen here is not impressive. I could see the level

of decay here in terms of infrastructure. I believe that a lot needs to be done to put back this library to its former glory."

"The state government, particularly Governor Soludo, may not be aware of the level of decay and decadence in infrastructures going on here. I urge Governor Chukwuma Soludo to visit this place. I am making a passionate appeal and call that is devoid of politics to our amiable Governor Soludo, to come and fix this place to what it should be."

"This is a library that was commissioned in 1966 by the then Military Administrator of Eastern Region, our Ezeigbo Gbgburu, late Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, when he was in active service in charge of Eastern Region, as Military Administrator. I believe this library has produced a lot of people including my humble self."

"I am making a personal appeal to Governor Soludo to come to the rescue of this library. The last government attention on this library was during the time of Governor Peter Obi, who set up the E-Library here but there is no electricity to operate it. That is why I am working for Solar power to be provided here."

Anambra school academic activities resume daily

THE Anambra State government has adopted the United Nations (UN) stipulations for schools to end daily academic activities by 2:30 p.m.

The Anambra State Commissioner for Education, Ngozi Chuma-Udeh, made this known in a statement, yesterday, in Awka.

Chuma-Udeh said the adoption was to enable

Mbah assures investors of conducive business environment in Enugu

GOVERNOR Peter Mbah of Enugu State has pledged to ensure a very conducive business atmosphere for both existing and prospective investors, saying the state government is ready to attract more investments to the state through its business-friendly policies and programmes.

Mbah, who was represented by Ifeanyi Ossa, his deputy, at the ongoing Enugu International Trade Fair, described the fair as one sure way of growing the economy and reducing the poverty rate where manufacturers of goods and owners of small businesses come together to showcase their goods and services.

Speaking on the theme of the fair "Promoting Made-in-Nigeria Products for Global Competitiveness," the governor appealed to the Federal Government to upgrade the Enugu International Trade Fair Conference Permanent Site to compete favourably with its Lagos and Kaduna

counterparts.

Responding on behalf of the Federal Government, Uche Nnaji, Minister of Innovation Science and Technology, noted that the Government is deeply concerned about the influx of substandard products into the country and is doing everything within its powers to support local manufacturing of goods to make the industrial sector competitive, create jobs and wealth for the nation.

Earlier, Odeiga Jideonwo, Enugu State Chambers of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ECCIMA) said the gate pass to the fair is free-of-charge for everyone throughout the 10 days of the fair to attract more industrialists, investors, buyers, and sellers to interact, exchange business ideas, and share experiences for investment promotion and general economic growth.

The ongoing, 10-day Enugu International Trade Fair is expected to end on April 15, 2024.