

# Gunmen kill security operative, 2 others in Anambra

**G**UNMEN suspected to be terrorists, have reportedly killed an officer of the Nigeria Police Force, NPF, and two other civilians, in a recent attack in Nnewi, Anambra State.

The assailants were said to have engaged the security operatives in a shootout on Monday while driving

a red Highlander jeep.

Eyewitnesses reported that the gunmen abducted one individual from a hotel and robbed others of their mobile phones and valuables before fleeing. The pursuit by the vigilante commander ended tragically in Nnobi, where the gunmen shot him as they made their

escape.

In Nnobi, the violence escalated further as the attackers opened fire on local vigilante operatives, seriously wounding two security personnel. The gunmen's rampage continued to a burial ceremony where they shot and killed two more individuals.

The sources further detailed that

the attackers proceeded to the Afor Nnobi area, killing three security personnel, and continued their deadly spree to Ahuda, resulting in another fatality. The injured were transported to a local hospital in Nnewi, where they are currently receiving medical attention.

In a press release yesterday, the Police Public Relations Officer for Anambra Command, Tochukwu Ikenga, revealed that the criminals were pursued by the police after kidnapping a person in Nnewi.

"During the gun duel, one of the security operatives was fatally hit by the bullet and due to the indiscriminate shootings by the hoodlums in an attempt to escape the scene, the bullet also fatally struck two innocent passersby in the area.

"The Police Responding Team at the scene recovered the bodies of the victims and took them to the hospital but regrettably, three of the victims, including a 22-year-old lady, were confirmed dead by the doctors on duty while two others are currently receiving treatment," Ikenga noted in the statement.

Reacting, the state Commissioner of Police, Nnaghe Itam, described the killers as "cowards who have murdered sleep."

The police boss expressed his sympathy with the families of the deceased, and vowed to get justice for the "heroic act of the murdered vigilante operative and unsuspecting members at the scene."

## police net over rape of 8-yr-old

girl at about 11 pm. During the interrogation, he confessed to the crime, that it was the third time he was raping the 8-year-old girl. We also discovered that he committed

the same offence four years ago while he was living in his former residence near the village. He is a serial rapist. We handed him over to the Police in Aba."

Abia Police spokesperson, ASP Maureen Chinaka, promised to get back to *Vanguard* and was yet to do so, as of the time of filing this report.

## Additional state'll ensure justice in S-East —Igbo Unions

**T**HE National Association of Igbo Town Unions, ASITU, has said the creation of an additional state in the South-East would ensure justice for the geo-political zone.

The group stated this while throwing its weight behind the agitation for the creation of an additional state in the zone, which it described as a step in the right direction.

This was made known by the national president of ASITU, Chief Emeka Diwe while addressing newsmen in Owerri, the capital of Imo State.

Diwe commended Senator Osita Izunaso, representing Imo East Senatorial zone, and his counterpart in the green chamber, Ugochinyere

Ikenga, member, representing Ideato North and South in the House of Representatives, for their efforts in demanding an additional state in the South East zone.

ASITU president said the effort by the lawmakers to bring the number of states in the zone to six, through legislative instruments, is highly commendable and long overdue as the South East is the only zone in Nigeria with only five states.

Diwe explained that the lopsided nature of the number of states in Nigeria against the South East is one among the many obvious marginalization the people have suffered for years.

He stressed that among the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, the North-West has seven states while North-East, North-Central, South-South, and South-West all have

six states each except for South-East with only five states.

He called on the members of the National Assembly to support the bills initiated by the lawmakers and ensure the same sail through the processes and become law.

Diwe urged President Bola Tinubu to support the venture, adding that the creation of an additional state in the zone would be registered as a solid achievement of his administration in the annals of Nigerian history.

Recall that Senator Osita Izunaso and Ugochinyere Ikenga had independently raised a bill for the creation of Orlu State in their various chambers. The bill is said to have passed its first reading.