

Gunmen kill 5 in Anambra community

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NEWI—NAWFIA community in Njikoka Local Government Area of Anambra State was, weekend, thrown into mourning, following gunmen's attack that left five people dead.

According to eyewitnesses, the gunmen came into the town and opened fire on innocent and defenseless citizens, killing five people while many people were also injured, including a small child.

The victims of the brazen attack, included two indigenes, Samuel Onyebuchi Nnatuanya, 26, and Chukwuebuka Ifeanyichukwu Nwonukwue, 29. Both victims were said to hail from

....As Police foil attempt to kidnap foreigner

Adagbe Mmimi village, Nawfia.

The three other victims of the attack were said to be residents in Nawfia, one from Ukwulu, Dunukofia council area of the state, while the others were from Ebonyi State and a state in the Northern region of the country.

Vanguard gathered that the hoodlums stormed the town around 8:00 PM on Sunday, in a Lexus RX Jeep, and a Toyota Sienna, went to the Umukwa-Umuriam axis of the town, and opened fire on the unsuspecting youths before speeding off.

Reacting to the attack, Nawfia Progressive Union, through its President General, Daniel Okoye, in a statement to newsmen yesterday expressed sadness over the incident,

bemoaning the senseless murder of their youths in the prime of their lives, just as they bemoaned the death of the residents who are non-indigenes of the town.

"We are sad over the senseless killing of our sons and non-indigenes residents who had deemed Nawfia a place worth inhabiting. Nawfia Progressive Union and town leaders will do everything in our power to expose the animals who did this.

"We also plead for calm and patience from our people. Many stories and theories have been formed despite a lack of evidence to prove them. As of now, there is no indication that the killers were sent from a neighbouring town. There is also no proof to support

that the murders were cult-related.

"We will not rule out any party at this point and will not jump to any conclusions. We plead with Ndi Nawfia and the general public to do the same. We call on the Nigerian Police to do a proper and thorough investigation.

"So far, the response and approach of the law enforcement agents have been inadequate. We expect them to do all in their power to fish out and apprehend these serial killers and bring peace back to our environs."

Efforts to speak with the Anambra State, Police Public Relations Office, PPRO, Ikenga Tochukwu, proved abortive.

However, Ikenga in response to a text message to his phone

confirmed the incident but said that "Joint patrol with Special Anti Cultism Squad is currently ongoing in the area"

Police foil attempt to kidnap foreigner in Anambra

In a related development, operatives of Anambra State Police Command have foiled an attempted abduction of a foreigner by armed hoodlums, suspected to be members of a secessionist group.

This was revealed in a statement by the state police spokesperson, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, on Monday.

Ikenga disclosed that the incident occurred on Sunday in Ogbunka community in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State.

He said the victim was rescued after police engaged the hoodlums in a gun battle that lasted several minutes.

He added that two police officers, who sustained bullet wounds during the incident, are currently receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital.

He said, "In the morning of 6/10/2024, police operatives foiled the abduction of a foreigner by suspected armed secessionist members in Ogbunka village.

"The operatives courageously engaged the hoodlums in a gun battle and rescued the VIP. Unfortunately, during the gun duel, two police officers were injured by gunfire. They are in a stable condition and are currently receiving treatment in hospital."

FG refutes alleged plans to relocate insurgents, IDPs to S-East

THE Federal Government has refuted claims that it plans to relocate repentant Boko Haram members and Internally Displaced Persons from the North to the South East.

The Federal Commissioner of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, NCFRMI, Tijani Ahmed, said this in Abuja yesterday while reacting to the attack on the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) centre at Ezeoko-Nsu

explore and ascertain whether the centre could be utilized to train returnee migrants, refugees, and displaced persons, such as victims of floods and communal clashes, as well as the youth and people of Imo State and the broader southeast region.

"Displaced persons are found throughout Nigeria, including those affected by floods and other crises in places like Orlu, Njaba, and Orsu areas of Imo State.

"Our primary aim was to train,

certify, and empower the vulnerable populations of Imo State and the southeast with vital skills for self-reliance, with the potential to establish the centre as the regional headquarters for this initiative."

He noted that similar skills acquisition centres are proposed to be established in the six geopolitical zones of the country to serve the populations in each respective zone, in line with the Commission's "Skills

to Wealth" initiative and the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

On why the southeast region needs a skill acquisition centre, Ahmed said: "It is important to highlight that out of the over 6 million people facing displacement in Nigeria, a significant number reside in the southeast, where entire communities have been displaced due to ecological challenges such as erosion, landslides, and other forms of environmental degradation.