

ctor Finance, Adegoke Adedeji at the NSITF Service Awards ceremony, in Abuja, yesterday.

2 feared dead in Anambra community as vigilantes engage Police in gun battle

By Chimaobi
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NNEWI—NO fewer than two people were feared killed and some others injured when local security operatives and men of the police force engaged themselves in a gun battle that lasted several minutes at Izuchukwu Junction, Nnobi/Nnewi Road, on Wednesday night.

Vanguard gathered from an eyewitness that during the incident, a vehicle also caught fire when stray bullets hit its fuel tank, thereby, creating further panic within the area.

According to a Vanguard source, "The incident happened last night, (Wednesday). We just sud-

denly saw security operatives engaging themselves in a gun battle and during the incident, two passers-by were hit by bullets and they fell on the ground bleeding profusely.

"No one knew the actual cause of the incident as people started running helter-skelter, scampering for safety. Even a vehicle was burnt down when bullets hit the fuel tank.

"It was a scary scene as residents thought those engaged in the shooting were hoodlums that have come to disrupt the burial of the late Senator Ifeanyi Ubah, which would be taking place in Nnewi later this week."

The incident was also corroborated by some online videos on social media, where some voices narrated what transpired.

However, the Police Public Relations Officer for the Anambra State Police Command, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, when contacted yesterday morning confirmed the incident.

According to Ikenga, "The local security forces mistook the Police operatives as "unfriendly forces" and opened fire on them, thereby leading to the gun duel.

"The Anambra State Police Command is aware of the shooting incident that took place at Izuchukwu junction, Nnobi/Nnewi road by 7 pm on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, where security operatives mistook the Police operatives as unfriendly forces and opened fire on them. "However, the command wishes to emphasise that the attack on the operatives was not from non-

state actors or any attempt to disrupt the burial of late Senator Ifeanyi Ubah.

"Preliminary information showed that security operatives on investigation trailed a suspect to a security checkpoint before the gun duel ensued.

"Unfortunately, bullets hit the fuel tank of the Toyota Venza Sedan, carrying the men, and it was razed down. Two innocent passers-by were injured and taken to hospital. The Command sues for calm to allow for investigations into the incident.

"We assured Nnewi residents not to panic. Joint Security Forces have been deployed to ensure Nnewi is calm throughout the burial ceremonies of the late Senator".