

2 persons feared killed as gunmen invade Vanguard Media Staff Cooperative Society land

GUNMEN, numbering over 100, yesterday invaded the Vanguard Media Staff Cooperative Society Land in Lokoji community, Ogun State, leaving two villagers feared dead and several others injured.

The armed men, whose mission was to forcibly take over the cooperative's expanse of land with over 300 plots, were heard bragging that no law enforcement agent could stop their mission.

They were said to have announced their presence with sporadic gunshots, which sent the villagers, the majority of whom are farmers, running in different directions for safety.

There had been rumours of an imminent invasion of the community. In fear, some of the villagers abandoned their homes for other communities, to avoid being caught in the cross fire.

One of the villagers who alerted some members of staff of Vanguard newspapers to the invasion said the armed men told them never to return to their ancestral home again

if they wanted to stay alive.

One of them, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of being killed, told Vanguard on the phone: "They have finally

invaded our land. They have chased everyone out. We left with nothing. They came with guns, machetes, broken bottles, and other dangerous objects."

Police arrest woman, lover who stole sold in Abia

By Egufe Yafurgbohi & Chioma Onuegbu

UYO—A woman identified as Christiana Ibanga of Ekamba Nsukara village in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State has been arrested by the police alongside her boyfriend, Inyene Akpan, for alleged child trafficking.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Timfon John, who briefed newsmen, yesterday, at the command's headquarters Ikot Akpan Abia, said the suspects, who were arrested in Abuja on January 14, 2025, stole a six-year-

old girl from the state in 2024 and later sold her in neighbouring Aba, Abia State.

John said the suspects upon interrogation confessed selling their own child for N450,000.

Her words: "On June 15, 2024, a woman (name withheld) of Afaha Atai Village in Ibesikpo Asutan LGA reported that one Christiana Ibanga, a female resident of Ekamba Nsukara Village in Uyo LGA, lured her six-year-old daughter (name withheld) and took her to an unknown destination.

"Acting promptly on credible intelligence, our operatives immediately swung into action and arrested one Christiana Ibanga and her accomplice, who is her boyfriend named Inyene Akpan, on January 14, 2025, in Abuja.