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## Bloodbath: Rampaging gunmen kill 15 in Imo

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Chaos and confusion reigned supreme yesterday at Isiala Mbano and Nkwerre Local Government Areas of Imo State following the brutal killing of 15 persons by rampaging armed men and several others injured at various locations in the two council areas.

d To The Web: Thursday, January 21, 2010 - VAL OKARA, Owe

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But the state government has, however, put the casualty figure at six, claiming that the gunmen on rampage were kidnap kingpins. Confirming the gory incident to Daily Sun, the Special Adviser to Gov. Ikedi Ohakim on Security matters, Sir George Egu, explained that trouble erupted on Monday night when the Isiala LGA Vigilante Coordinator with two of his men intercepted men in tinted "C' class Mercedes Benz salon car.

According to Equ, the suspects (gunmen) kidnapped the said leader of the vigilante group and in a jet like speed drove to an unknown destination on the Nkwerre-Orlu road.

Continuing, the Special adviser said while the car was in motion, the kidnapped security officer, desperate to get himself off the hook reportedly pounced on the driver which resulted in the vehicle somersaulting several times and hitting three concrete electric poles leaving the occupants of the vehicle terribly unconscious.

The security aide added that the Isiala Mbano vigilante group, which gave the kidnappers a hot chase eventually apprehended the suspects at the scene of the accident and handed them over to the police at the

Curiously Egu disclosed that the gun-men re-grouped on Wednesday morning for a reprisal mission and attacked the police station where their colleagues were detained to release them but met a stiff resistance from the police.

Egu, who was visibly downcast when he spoke to the Daily Sun in his office yesterday afternoon, said the gun wielding men, who were operating with a Jeep and a Toyota Camry, went to Isiala Mbano vigilante office at Anara and killed a man and a woman and equally set the entire office ablaze

The worst was said to have happened when vigilante vehicle on rescue mission from Nkwerre LGA ran into them on Nkwerre-Orlu Road and the gunmen opened fire resulting in the deaths of four occupants of the vehicle. Unconfirmed report said the Nwangele LGA Vigilante Coordinator was said to have been killed.

The Imo State Police Command Spokesman, ASP, Linus Nwaiwu, could not confirm the casualty figures but said he was still waiting the details.



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