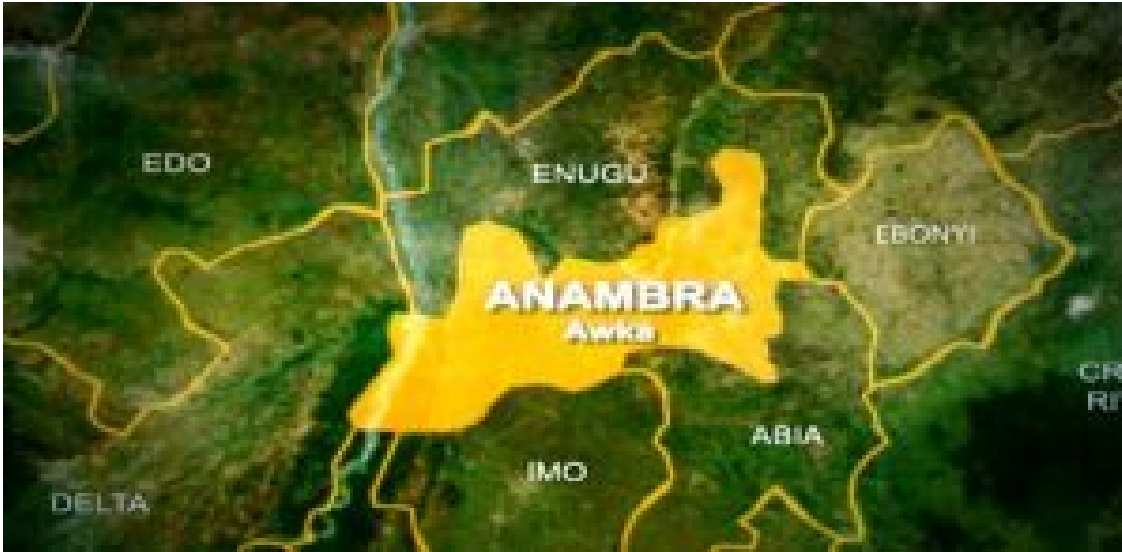


# 15-year-old boy killed in Anambra market attack

February 23, 2026 12:27 am



By Dayo Oyewo

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A 15-year-old boy has been killed during an attack at Ogbakoba Market Arena in Anambra State, allegedly carried out by members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its armed wing, the Eastern Security Network (ESN).

Security expert Zagazola Makama reported the incident on X on Sunday, saying it occurred at about 1:40 p.m. on February 21. Armed men reportedly emerged from a forest camp in Amiyi community and opened sporadic gunfire on traders and residents.

“The attackers stormed the market, apparently intending to kidnap or rob residents, causing panic as traders and customers fled for safety,” Makama wrote. “A 15-year-old boy was killed while security operatives repelled the attack. A joint task force patrol team stationed at Amiyi engaged the hoodlums in a fierce gun duel, forcing them to retreat into the forest with bullet wounds.”

Makama added that the boy was hit by a stray bullet during the exchange of fire. He was rushed to a nearby hospital but was confirmed dead on arrival.

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“His body was deposited in the morgue for autopsy and preservation,” Makama said.

Efforts to reach the state Police Public Relations Officer, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, for comment were unsuccessful as calls and messages sent to him were not answered at the time of filing this report.

This attack follows a February incident in which unidentified gunmen, suspected to be cultists, killed Ikwuka Okoye, also known as Anumili, the President-General of Ogidi community in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State.