



Onitsha killings: MASSOB gives Army ultimatum

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Obviously infuriated by the clampdown on members of the Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), by the Army in Onitsha Anambra state, which led to the killing of three of their member last Sunday, the movement has given the Military High Command 48 hours to affect the release of their members including the corpses of those killed and immediate stoppage of their harrassment.

The Movement's spokesman, Comrade Uchenna Madu, stated that the Army has provoked MASSOB members through their unwarranted killings and detention of their members, warning that, "if the ultimatum is not heeded, the Army and the Nigerian state will see the violent side of MASSOB".

The visibly agitated Madu maintained that the non-violent posture of MASSOB has been mistaken for weakness by security

operatives, "who now derive joy in the killing and intimidation of unarmed MASSOB members".

"The current security challenges the country is grappling with as a result of the Boko Haram menace will be a child's play at the expiration of our ultimatum. We will declare war against the Army except our members that are currently in detention in different military facilities and police cells in Anambra state and entire South East are released unconditionally", he fumed.

Madu who gave graphic details of how soldiers attacked and killed some members of MASSOB in Onitsha on Sunday said that the soldiers were on a rescue mission of a man who deals on Idian hemp that was arrested by MASSOB members and handed over to the police in Onitsha.

He alleged that the man was an agent of some officers in the barrack and immediately he contacted them they moved to Okpoko police station, a suburb of Onitsha and set him free before they began the manhunt of MASSOB members at their meeting venues

Madu said that it was at Port Harcourt road by Silas Works road that they shot and killed three of their members who resisted their arrest.

Corroborating MASSOB's stance, the newly

crowned "Ogirisi-Igbo (defender of the igbos), Chief Rommy Ezeonwuka, said that the MASSOB members who were killed by the Army in Onitsha , were on their way to a meeting to fine tune arrangements for the burial of late Dim Odimegwu Ojukwu.

Describing the incident as provocative, the Igbo leader warned that the actions of the Army which he said was a systematic clampdown of Igbo youths, will have dire consequences if it is allowed to continue.

"We have endured the killing of Ndigbo in the North without reprisal attacks in the East. But we are being pushed to the wall by the Army in our own land. What have they done to the Boko Haram sect who are known enemies of the state. We are waiting to see what government will do otherwise we may resort to self defense", he sounded

But the Commander of the 302 Artillery Regiment Onitsha, Brig. General J. Abuka, denied that the Army killed MASSOB members, stating that if its true they should bring the corpses for people to see.
