

News

Anambra crisis: Police station burnt, 5 killed in Nnewi

Armed men numbering about 300 have attacked and burnt down the Central Police Station (CPS), at Nnewi in Anambra state, killing two policemen in the process.

However, the police have confirmed killing three of the attackers but their bodies were taken away by the mob.

Meanwhile, Anambra state government and the police have disagreed over the identity of the attackers. While the state's Commissioner of Police, Mr. John Haruna, told *Daily Trust* in a telephone interview that the attackers are members of the Movement for the Actualisation of

By Shehu Abubakar

the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Peter Obi of Anambra state, Mr. Basil Ejidike, said the attackers are members of the National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO).

Mr. Haruna said the attackers were dressed in military uniforms and were fully armed attacking the central police station, Nnewi and freeing all the suspects in the cell before setting it ablaze.

"They were there in a convoy of several vehicles. Four exhibit vehicles parked

at the station were also burnt by them. Several other policemen were injured and some arms stolen by the attackers. I can for now, confirm to you that two arms were carted by them from the slain policemen.

"I led a team myself to Nnewi and when I was there, we received an intelligence report that they were seen in a nearby forest at the old Nnewi prison around an abandoned building. I led my men to the place. It was dark, but when they saw us, they ran into the forest. We have however, recovered 13 assorted vehicles used in the attack which they parked near the forest.

"We have also recovered military bullet proof jackets, several military uniforms and a large number of military boots in the vehicles we recovered. We have searched through our records at all the police stations in the state and discovered that none of

the vehicles recovered from them was ever reported missing by the owners. We are now trying to trace the names and addresses of the owners and know how and when these vehicles got to the MASSOB members", he



Governor Peter Obi

said.

Mr. Haruna assured the people of Anambra state of the readiness of the joint army and police patrol team to ensure the security of lives and property and urged the people to always notify the nearest police formations with useful information on the movement of armed men believed to be militias.

An eyewitness of the attack, Chief Emeka Chris told *Daily Trust* on phone that the attackers shot sporadically into the air while chanting war songs before they attacked the police station.

He said traders around the area had to lock up their shops and take to their heels while the attack lasted. "They were in army uniform, but some of them did not wear berets.

All the ones I saw had army trousers and shirts. Some had guns but some had only cutlasses and sticks", he

said.

However, Basil Ejidike said while MASSOB members use Biafran military uniforms with Biafran army badges for their operations, NARTO members use Nigerian army uniforms to operate.

"If the police are sure that the uniforms they recovered from the vehicles they seized are Nigerian army uniforms, then the attackers are members of the disbanded NARTO group. MASSOB doesn't use any uniform apart from the Biafran army uniform.

"Let us call a spade a spade. NARTO is responsible for all the crises in the state. There is no way we will achieve any progress in maintaining peace and harmony among the people when we spare NARTO and blame MASSOB even when we know that NARTO is responsible", he said.

FG, states, LGs share N557.5bn for June

By Anas A. Galadima

A total of N557.5billion was shared by the three tiers of govern-

the Nigerian National Petr-