

Security personnel raid Onitsha MASSOB offices, kill 16

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

NO fewer than 16 members of the Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) were feared dead yesterday when a combined team of the Army, Police and SSS allegedly raided MASSOB offices in the commercial city of Onitsha and its environs in Anambra State.

The team, which also arrested over 500 other members of the group, including women at different locations during the raid that lasted from Monday night to the early hours of yesterday morning, saw 83 others sustaining severe gunshot injuries.

Briefing newsmen over the incident, MASSOB National Director of Information and the Onitsha Region 4 Administrator, Uchenna Madu and Chief Arinze Igbani respectively, described the raid on their offices by security operatives as "unwarranted and provocative".

They narrated that at about 5pm on Monday a detachment of security operatives, numbering over 50 allegedly stormed MASSOB office along Pam Pam Lane located inside the Onitsha Main Market and when they could not find any member inside the office, they broke in and vandalized the office, setting the Biafran flag ablaze before ordering all the neighborhood to lie down.

When contacted, the Anambra State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Emeka Chukwuemeka, confirmed the incident, saying he was yet to be officially briefed on the number of arrests and casualties recorded.

Commander of the 302 Artillery Regiment, Onitsha, Col. M. T. Durowaiye, and SSS officer for Onitsha North council area, A. Y. Idakwoji, could also not be reached when contacted on phone to react to the development.

Gunmen kill retired DIG, 2 others in Kano

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

GUNMEN yesterday shot dead retired police DIG Sale Abubakar Ningi, his orderly and personal friend.

The DIG, who was in charge of the Nigeria Police Force works department until his retirement alongside IG Hafiz Ringim, was ambushed around 6pm, while returning from his plastic factory, situated at Sauna/Kawaii in Kano, *Daily Trust* gathered.

The assailants were said to have opened fire on the DIG's car, shattering its glasses and killing all the three occupants.

Daily Trust also gathered that the remains of the senior officer and those of his aides were deposited at Gamji Military Hospital in Kano.

Confirming the killing, Kano Police Command spokesperson, DSP Rilwanu Muhammad Dutse, said the attackers had trailed the retired police officer on motorcycle from the isolated industrial area, before killing him. The spokesperson said the killers did not take anything from the victims.