

# Soldiers kill 3 car robbers in Imo

From Jude Aguguo  
Owuamanam, Owerri

2 A combined team of army and naval operatives on Monday killed three persons suspected to members of a car snatching syndicate.

The military officers who were drafted from the 34 Artillery Brigade, Obinze, and the navy's 211 Quick Response Group, were said to have responded to a distress call by the people of Ngor Okpala Local Government Area of the state.

The operatives were then said to have intercepted them

at Umuonyenwere Umuowa community of Ngor Okpala where they engaged the hoodlums in a shootout.

The military said three of the suspects were shot and killed while a snatched vehicle, an SUV Toyota Rav4 was recovered.

The 34 Artillery Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Raymond Utsaha, and his naval counterpart, Navy Commandore I. Ayo, later addressed some the residents of the community on the operations of their men, at which the community commended them for a job well

done.

Brig Gen Utsaha commended the residents for giving timely information and further gave out emergency numbers to members of the community asking them to call immediately whenever they perceived any danger.

Some of the residents who spoke to newsmen expressed delight over the prompt response of the military.

They said the bandits started their operation in Immerienwe where they snatched a vehicle from one Mr Emmanuel Chima Ekeh in Amafor community on

Monday morning.

A resident said, "They went on shooting sporadically and stopped at a filling station where they claimed to enforce the IPOB sit-at-home order, they assaulted the pump attendants, snatched their phones and all the money they had on them."

One of the arrested bandits who identified himself as Chigoze Odimene, a native of Umubi Oparanadim community in Ahiazu Mbaise LGA of Imo State, in his confessional statement, said he failed to heed the warning of his mother.