

Troops kill IPOB 'militants' in Anambra forest battle

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1 Troops of the Nigerian Army in joint operations conducted with other security agencies on Monday dislodged the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its armed affiliate, Eastern Security Network (ESN), from Lilu Forest in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Lilu is a border town between Imo and Anambra states known to be an operational base of the IPOB/ESN.

The Director, Public Relations of the army, Brigadier General Onyema Nwachukwu, in a statement made available to journalists in Awka, Anambra State capital yesterday said the troops conducted the operations in the early hours of Monday and killed some gunmen in their hideout after a gun battle.

He said the troops recovered IPOB flags, 10 pump action shotguns, two locally fabricated guns, one revolver pistol, rounds of 7.62 mm special live cartridges, machettes, mobile phones,

● Kill 3 bandits, lose one soldier in Kaduna

and laptops.

He said the operation was jointly conducted by troops of 82 Division, Nigerian Navy, 211 Quick Response Group of the Nigerian Air Force, Department of State Services, and the police.

"It was a well coordinated dawn attack on the fortress, where plans were being perfected to violently enforce the illegitimate sit-at-home declaration by the irredentist groups," he said

2 Also, troops have killed three bandits in different locations in three local government areas of Kaduna State.

It was gathered that the troops repelled the bandits' attacks during operations in Chikun and Igabi local government areas.

2a Daily Trust learnt that a soldier died during the gun battle in Ungwan Musa of Tudun Wada Kudansa located at Maraban Rido.

The village head, Joseph Sauri Garba, who confirmed the attack on

his community, said the troops that came to their rescue killed one of the bandits but lost a soldier too.

"One bandit was killed and a soldier was also killed during the gunfight that lasted for almost three hours," he said.

He said the troops also forced the bandits to abandon over 10 victims they had kidnapped from the community.

The Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, who in a statement also confirmed the attacks, said the troops killed three bandits and freed eight kidnapped victims.

He was, however, silent on the death of the soldier at Ungwan Musa.

"An intense firefight followed at the targeted building. The troops' superior firepower eventually prevailed over the terrorists who escaped through a back fence with gunshot wounds, as confirmed by bloodstains which lined their exit," he said.