

## Anambra extends

### curfew to more towns • Prisons chief blames officers over jail-break

THE curfew imposed on Onitsha, the nerve centre of Anambra State, has been extended to some neighbouring towns. According to the Chief of Staff to the State Governor, Mr. Chukwu Iloegbunam, this is to forestall further spread of the crisis.

And in a related development, the Acting Comptroller-General of Prisons, Mr. Okwara

*From Chuk Collins, Uzoma Nwagwu (Awka) and Gbenga Akin (Onitsha)*

Uche Kalu, has accused his officers and men in Onitsha of collusion with rioters who attacked the Onitsha prison.

Towns now affected by the curfew are Oba, Obosi, Nkpor, Nsugbe, Ogburn and Okpoko.

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## Anambra govt extends curfew

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Iloegbunam said the curfew would end next Sunday, in the first instance, just like the earlier order on Onitsha.

Meanwhile, the governor has invited party leaders, community leaders, traditional rulers and leaders of thought to an emergency meeting today over the security situation in the state.

Okwara who arrived in Onitsha in company of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police (FCID), Mr. Ogbomaya Onovo, expressed disgust at the way over 20 armed guards took to their heels on sighting the nine miscreants alleged to have masterminded the torching of the administrative block of the prisons and set the inmates free.

Kalu wondered why none of the guards made use of his gun, "none fired even one shot." He, therefore, said that the possibility of collusion was high, stressing that he would not be surprised if investigation revealed deep involvement of his men in the whole saga.

This unusual display of

lack of commitment to duty, he added, was uncalled for despite high incentives being enjoyed by his officers.

Onovo, the second DIG to arrive in the state within 24 hours, admitted that the increasing incidence of jail-break in the country had become too embarrassing to the Federal Government. According to him, he is in Onitsha to investigate the criminal circumstances that led to the prison break, the second in less than five months. The Federal Government, he said, was determined to dig to the root causes and stamp it out decisively.

DIG Mike Okoro who arrived earlier said he would remain in the state until peace returned.

Already, the political parties, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) have reacted to the development, blaming the state governor "for acting too slow, too late". The Anambra State Secretary of PDP, Chief Reuben Okpaloka, had accused Obi of complexity over the crisis due to the governor's reported visit to MASSOB office earlier.

The ANPP's Chuba

## Govt warns of tricksters

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Lagos.

• The most common problems encountered by British nationals in Nigeria are attempts by scam artists to extract money from their intended victims. These scams come in many forms and can cause considerable financial loss to victims.

• You should be aware of the threat from terrorism in Nigeria. A statement issued by Usama Bin Laden in February 2003 called for an uprising by Muslims in a number of

Ikegwu accused the state governor and Federal Government of "flickering around now when the more horrendous crisis took place in the state on November 11 to 13 2004, when public and private property were vandalised and torched by political thugs, yet no one spoke up or even acted". He added also that though the government white paper was released, and everyone expected Obi to start from there, he had been carrying on as if nothing happened until now.

A visit to Onitsha shows that more troops have arrived and taken over security on the roads, with heavy presence at the flash-points of Upper Iwaka. Everyone and vehicles were thoroughly searched.

Meanwhile, efforts at restoring peace and order in Onitsha were intensified yesterday as senior army and police officers met in Enugu and resolved to sustain the tempo of their operations.

Okoro led other senior police officers into the meeting which included the AIG Zone 2, Ademola Aiskaiye, Commissioners of Police in Anambra and Enugu states, while Colonel Johnson Ochoja led senior army officers.

Briefing the police team at the end of the meeting held at the 82 Division of the Nigeria Army Headquarters, Ochoja, who represented the GOC, Maj. Gen. Abdullahi Adegbenjo, said the military was participating fully in the operations in Onitsha based on the directives it received from the appropriate authorities.

He said that the operations were already yielding results, promising that the action would be sustained as the commanders, in