

# MASSOB denies detaining OPC member, alleges killing of 99 Igbo youths

**T**HE Movement for the Actualisation of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) has denied detaining any Yoruba man of the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) in the wake of the Onitsha, Anambra State saga.

Similarly, the group has accused the security agencies of secretly killing 99 Igbo youths, including two ladies and a pregnant woman extra-judicially.

In two separate statements issued on July 10 titled: "A Yoruba man is not in our custody-MASSOB" and "The on-going secret killing of Igbo in Onitsha: MASSOB calls for UN intervention," signed by the movement's Deputy Director of

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*From  
Charles Ogugbuaja,  
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Information, Mazi Chris Mocha, said that after a thorough search by the group, no OPC member was found in any custody of MASSOB, while insisting that the body was not a violent one, it urged the security agencies to deal ruthlessly with any one found to be indulging in violence.

The statement made available to *The Guardian* read in part: "The leadership of Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), after our thorough investigation in the last few days found out that the rumour making the round in Onit-

sha, Anambra State, that a Yoruba man was abducted by MASSOB members is false and a state rumour. We carried out necessary contact with all the sectional heads and members in Ogbaru, Idemili North, Onitsha North and South only to discover that there was no iota of truth in such rumour."

Continuing, the statement said: "Our relationship with members of the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) is very cordial. We, therefore, implore our brothers and sisters of the South West to disregard the said rumour which to the best of our knowledge is indefensible and could not be substantiated."

Reacting on the alleged

secret killings, MASSOB regretted that out of the 99 persons said to have been killed, police accepted being in custody of 69, adding that 38 were taken to 82 Division of Nigerian Army and were paraded and executed on Saturday, July 8 at the Police College Shooting range located near Idaw River Layout, Enugu.

It added that 24 others, including two ladies were later killed at the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Awka, Anambra State, and 37 allegedly executed at the 302 Artillery Regiment, Army Barracks, Onitsha.

The statement noted that the pregnant woman was killed at 53D Line Okpoko on Thursday, July 6.