

# 1,844 inmates roam free after Imo prison break

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**T**HE spate of coordinated attacks by suspected separatist fighters against security forces in the Southeast continued yesterday as unknown gunmen in the early hours of Monday attacked the Nigerian Correctional Services and the police headquarters in Imo State, freeing 1,844 inmates, after which the hoodlums set the facilities ablaze.

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During the attack, one person suspected to be a fleeing inmate was hit by a bullet while carrying his travel bag.

His lifeless body was seen on the ground in front of the correctional centre located near the Government

House, along Okigwe Road. The gunmen also razed the Imo State Police Command headquarters and burnt al-

most all the vehicles parked at the command's headquarters. No fewer than 50 cars were set ablaze in the process. Sources disclosed that after the bandits invaded the command, they also freed scores of detainees.

They were said to have operated from 1:00 a.m. till 3:00 a.m. during which they sang solidarity songs at the Government House roundabout for about 30 minutes

before attacking the facilities.

On breaking into the prison facility with the aid of explosives and dynamite, the attackers told the inmates: "Go home, Jesus has risen. You have no reason to be here."

According to residents of Ikenegbu Layout, Okigwe Road axis of the Correctional Service, Wethdral, there was heavy exchange of gunfire, which was followed by bomb explosion. A resident,

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