

# Three Killed As Army Storms Kanu's Home

By **Uche Nwosu** - September 11, 2017



**Umuahia** – Following earlier declaration of intent by the Nigerian army to begin raid on all militant groups in the South East, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) on Sunday night said three of its members were killed and about 30 others injured when soldiers allegedly attacked the country home of Nnamdi Kanu, its leader.

According to Kanu, in a statement made available to INDEPENDENT on Sunday, the soldiers believed to be from the 14th Brigade of the Nigerian Army Barracks at Ohafia stormed his home in an armoured tank and about four Toyota Hilux vans loaded with heavily armed soldiers.

He said the soldiers were shooting sporadically as they approached his father's compound, causing panic among residents of the area with the aim to arrest or kill him.

He alleged that they wanted to gain entry into his father's compound but that IPOB members quickly formed human shield around the compound and stoutly resisted them.

"I was sleeping this evening (Sunday) when suddenly I was woken up by the blaring of sirens. Initially I thought it was the commissioner of police who lives in the neighbourhood that was returning home. But the blaring persisted and was followed up by sporadic gun shots.

"They wanted to bulldoze their way into the palace but IPOB members formed human shield and resisted them. They wanted to break the shield and fired at three persons and wounded others before leaving. Everybody including children were running away in confusion", he said.

Kanu, however, said no amount of intimidation would make him abandon the struggle for Biafra independence, saying that he is not ready to abandon the cause of liberating Ndigbo from the shackles of Nigeria.

"They want to use force and beat us into submission because they have lost the argument but they will fail, they want to trigger war but we won't oblige them because we are committed to our non-violent philosophy", Kanu said.

Kanu noted that he had not received any invitation from any security agency and wondered why the army would want to invade his home and urged those after him to go through the legal means to arrest him if need be.

In an interview also, Kanu's father and the traditional ruler of Afaraukwu Community, HRH Eze Israel Kanu, described the invasion as "unwarranted and shocking", stressing that he was aware that plans are on the way to kill his son.

The monarch said his son committed no crime to warrant military invasion of his palace and warned that the country will never be the same if his son is either rearrested or killed in the cause of his struggle for Biafra.

Meanwhile, doctors are stilling battling to save the life of one of the wounded IPOB members hospitalised at the Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia, Abia State.

When INDEPENDENT visited the hospital one of the doctors on duty at the emergency unit said the IPOB member sustained gunshot injury at "the thigh region."

The doctor, who pleaded anonymity, said x-ray would be conducted on the injured person to determine the extent of the gunshot wound, but noted that he was responding to treatment.

Efforts to reach the Public Relation Officer, 14 Army Brigade Ohafia, Major Gbadamosi Oyegoke, did not yield any fruit as he did not pick calls put to his cell phone.

Also calls and text message to the phone of Brig. Gen. Usman Sani, Director, Nigerian Army Directorate of Public Relations, were not responded to as at the time of filling this report.

Meanwhile, Pastor Chibuzor Henry Isiguzoro, President of World I World Igbo Council, has warned that Igbo youths will not tolerate any form provocation from any security agent against members of IPOB or other pro-Biafran organisations.

He stressed that it could lead to civil disobedience and riot in the South East.

He called on President Muhammadu Buhari to consult with South East governors before unleashing terror on a people struggling for self-determination.

Reacting, Abia Commissioner of Police, Leye Oyebade, said that he had spoken to the commanding officer on the matter and he assured him that the situation was under control.

"I have just spoken to the C.O. and he said that they repaired one of their military armoured vehicles and used it to patrol Umuahia metropolis."

According to Oyebade, the soldiers were shooting sporadically, which led to the IPOB members drawing out daggers and throwing broken bottles on them. "Unfortunately, a policeman on guard duty going to work was matcheted by the IPOB group, while a civilian, soldier were equally injured. All are being treated at the police clinic for minor injuries sustained", Oyebade said, adding that normalcy has been restored as his men are fully on ground to stop further breach of peace.

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