

Soldier, IPOB Member Killed As Troops Tackle Arsonists

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Nigerian Army on Tuesday said a soldier and an Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) member were killed in Awommamma community, Oru East Local Government Area of Imo State on Monday.

Major Abubakar Abdullahi, Acting Deputy Director, Army Public Relations of 82 Division, Nigerian Army, stated this in a statement made available to *Daily Independent* in Enugu.

He said troops conducting *Exercise Golden Dawn* dispersed IPOB/ESN hoodlums carrying out arson while enforcing the illegitimate sit-at-home order imposed by the proscribed group the area.

He said the hoodlums harassed and compelled citizens to comply with the unlawful order, noting that IPOB/ESN criminals indulged in harassment, intimidation and physical abuse of commuters going

about their lawful businesses.

"The criminals went further to carry out arson and destruction of businesses and homes at Ishieke Junction (along Owerri-Onitsha Expressway) as a vendetta against the citizens for not complying with the illegal order.

"The hoodlums who had earlier blocked the highway set ablaze a commercial vehicle heading towards Onitsha. Vigilant troops responding to distress calls by motorists and shop owners swiftly moved to the scene and engaged the hoodlums in a firefight. The troops overwhelmed the hoodlums forcing them to scamper in different directions.

"The troops pursued the hoodlums to their hideout in Akatta community in Oru East LGA, where a member of the group was neutralised in the shootout. While the troops engaged the hoodlums in their hideout, other members of the group who alleged that some individuals had volunteered information to the troops mus-