

Gunmen Enforcing Sit-At-Home Kill Two, Burn Vehicles In Enugu, Anambra



By Our Correspondents On Jan 11, 2022

FEATURED NEWS



PATIENCE OGBODO-IWUAGWU;CHUKWUJEKWU ILOZUE

ENUGU / AWKA – There was pandemonium in Enugu and Anambra on Monday as unknown gunmen tried enforcing the sit-at-home order cancelled by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

It was learnt that the gunmen went on shooting spree on different locations in Enugu metropolis and at the boundary between Oko community in Orumba North Local Government Area and Ekwulobia community in Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State, burning vehicles and destroying property as two people were alleged to have lost their lives in the process.

Daily Independent gathered that people started running helter-skelter on Monday morning in areas such as Amechi Akwakunanaw, Agbani Road, Holy Ghost Market, Okpara Avenue, Trans-Ekulu, Abakpa Nike Road, among others.

An eyewitness, Chiedozi Nnaji, told *Daily Independent* that some suspected members of IPOB engaged in shooting spree in Amechi Akwananaw community Monday morning, an act meant to attack people for disobeying the sit-at-home.

Nnaji said a commercial bus and a tricycle were set ablaze in the area while people ran back home for safety.

The report of the attack which spread to other parts of the city caused tension forcing residents to run for safety.

Daily Independent reports that traders at the popular Holy Ghost Market as well as other parts of the city hurriedly locked up their shops while banks and offices opened earlier in the day also closed down.

A resident of Maryland, Grace Ogbe, said that she trekked from her office for over an hour before she could get a tricycle that brought her home.

“I went to work this morning at Trans-Ekulu but around 10a.m., we saw people running helter-skelter and we were asked to go home because gunmen were shooting around Liberty area in Abakpa”, she said.

Meanwhile, Enugu State Police Command has vowed to cripple activities of miscreants enforcing sit-at-home in the state.

In a statement made available on the attack, Police Public Relations Officer of the state command, Daniel Ndukwe, assured citizens of their safety, urging them to go about their daily activities without any intimidation or fear.

He said, “Following the alleged cases of sporadic shootings at Topland Amechi-Awkunanaw, snatching and burning a Toyota Sienna vehicle and a tricycle at Umueze and Agbani axis of Nkanu West LGA of the state by miscreants alleged to be enforcing illegal sit-at-home order, which caused panic within Enugu metropolis in the morning hours of

Monday, citizens of Enugu metropolis and the state in general are hereby assured that the police, in collaboration with other security agencies, have brought the situation under control.

“Consequently, law-abiding citizens of the state have been enjoined to go about their lawful businesses without fear of intimidation or harassment.

“Police and other security operatives have been duly deployed to further thwart the untoward activities of the miscreants in the state. Further developments will be communicated,” he said.

Pandemonium In Anambra Over Shooting, Arson

Similarly, there was pandemonium Monday morning following alleged heavy shooting at the boundary between Oko community in Orumba North Local Government Area and Ekwulobia community in Aguata Local Government Area by suspected enforcers of sit-at-home.

Daily Independent learnt that suspected members of the proscribed IPOB carried out the act.

It was learnt that the shooting spread panic in the area, causing residents and passers-by to scamper for safety.

It was also learnt that a Toyota Sienna vehicle belonging to an unidentified indigene of Isuofia, a neighbouring community to Ekwulobia was set ablaze.

A source said, “The man was driving past in the area, when the men started shooting. He left his car in the middle of the road and ran for his dear life, but before he could return, the men had set it ablaze.”

Following this, the Anambra State Police Command mobilised to the area.

A statement issued by the Police Public Relations Officer, Ikenga Tochukwu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said the Commissioner of Police, Echeng Eworo Echeng, ordered reinforcement teams from the command headquarters to intensify patrols around major areas in the state like Onitsha, Nnewi, Ihiala, Aguata, Awka and environs in the state.

“The reinforcement team which comprises Police Mobile Operatives, Counter Terrorist Units, Special Forces and other tactical teams are to address any security concern that may arise and to forestall any breakdown of law and order in the state.

“This order is following a reported case of arson around boundary between Ekwulobia and Oke at about 7a.m. today, Monday.

“Police operatives are currently on ground and normalcy has been restored in the area. The situation is being monitored.”

President Muhammadu Buhari had on January 5 ruled out the possibility of a political solution regarding the detained leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu.

The president said this while answering questions at an exclusive interview anchored by Channels Television.

His comment came despite assurances to select leaders of the South-East who had earlier paid him a courtesy visit at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Recall that Kanu is facing charges bordering on treasonable felony instituted against him in response to years of the campaign for the Republic of Biafra through IPOB.

In November 2021, South-East traditional and religious leaders had asked the president to grant amnesty to Kanu to deescalate tension in the region.

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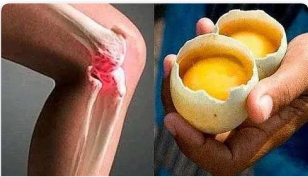
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