

### Seven ESN members killed ahead of attack on police station

A joint security team took the battle to the camp of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) located in a forest between Oyigbo and Eleme local government areas of Rivers State on Thursday night, killing seven of the members.



Some items recovered from gunmen arrested in the forest between Obigbo and Eleme Local Government Areas in Rivers State... yesterday

Five other members of the ESN were arrested.

The group was said to be preparing for an attack on a police station when the joint security team swooped, apparently acting on a tip off, and engaged the ESN members in a gun duel.

Confirming the development, Deputy Army Public Relations Officer, Lt. Col. Charles Ekeocha, said: "6 Division, in conjunction with Keystone, DSS and NSCDC led by Brigadier-General MD Danja, conducted clearance/raid operations at suspected IPOB/ESN camp in Agbochia Forest along Pipelines Road Ogali/ Kom-Kom boundary between Eleme and Oyigbo local government areas of Rivers State.

"During the clearance/raid operations, the team came in contact with the IPOB/ESN members. However, during the firefight, 7 IPOB/ESN members were neutralised and 5 suspects were arrested.

"Items recovered during the clearance/raid include: Communication gadgets, assorted cell phones, army uniforms arms and ammunition were also recovered.

"Also recovered from the camp were two AK 47 rifles, two G3 rifles, one locally made machine gun and one G3 magazine. Also recovered were three rounds of 7.62mm special, 10 rounds 7.62mm , 51mm NATO, one cutlass, five Baofeng handheld radios with chargers and 10 black berets."

### Scores feared killed in bandits' invasion of Niger Community

Also yesterday, gunmen launched fresh attacks on several communities in Wushishi Local Government Area of Niger State.

A yet to be known number of people were killed.

Some of the victims were said to have drowned in River Kaduna while running for their lives.

#### **‘National Day of Mourning’: Civil Society Groups Protest in Lagos, Abuja**

Members of the civil society groups yesterday took to the streets of Lagos and Abuja to protest the rising level of killings in different parts of the country.

The protesters demanded accountability from government.

The groups on Friday gathered in front of the National Human Rights Commission in Abuja and also in Ikeja, for a walk tagged “Day of Mourning”.

They displayed placards with inscriptions such as “End kidnapping,” “Nigerians Lives Matter,” and “I stand for Rights to Life”, among others.

Similar protests were held in February and earlier this month of May, calling attention to the violence, lawlessness and bloodletting raging in many parts of the country.

#### **Amnesty: FG not doing enough to protect lives**

Amnesty International believes the federal government is not doing enough to protect Nigerians.

The situation, it claims, has emboldened perpetrators of injustice.

Nigeria, according to AI in a statement to mark its 60th anniversary, has had a long history of human rights abuses.

It said: “Not much has changed about human rights in Nigeria since 1967, and the concerns remain flagrant disregard for human rights, failure of authorities to protect the people, threats to human rights including the right to freedom of expression, suppression of dissenting voices, and lack of accountability.

“Incessant killings and the stunning failure of the authorities to end them and bring suspected perpetrators to justice have been and continues to be a threat to the right to life in Nigeria.”

It frowned at the incessant clampdown on protesters, describing that as a major violation of people’s rights.

It added: “Protest is not a crime and Nigerians must be able to assemble peacefully and express themselves without fear.

“We are concerned that the civic space is shrinking and the fear of violence by security forces and sponsored thugs are undermining the right to peaceful protest and having a profound impact on other human rights.

“All the claims of reforming the police turned out to be ineffective. Despite the systemic human rights violations perpetrated by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), no one has been held accountable,” it said, adding that the government has failed “in its constitutional and international human rights obligations to ensure access to justice for victims” of rape and abuses.