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Navy: we killed six suspected IPOB members in Anambra

THE Nigerian Navy yesterday said its men killed six members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in a gun duel during Monday's sit-at-home.

It said contrary to reports, two of its men were not killed.

Commanding Officer, Naval Outpost, Onitsha, Anambra State, Adekunle Okeniyi, said the IPOB members were killed while trying to attack the men.

The statement reads: "The attention of the Naval Outpost, Onitsha has been drawn to some false publications that on the 9th August 2021, two naval personnel were killed at Awkuzu during a gun duel with suspected Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) members in Anambra State.

"The Naval Outpost Onitsha

refutes this fake news and wishes to state categorically that none of its personnel suffered any casualty during the gun duel.

"Rather, the troops fought gallantly and were able to repel the attack which resulted in the loss of six suspected IPOB members while others suffered a serious injury."

IPOB had announced a sit-at-home to protest the arrest and detention of its leader, Nnamdi Kanu, who is facing terrorism charges at the Federal High Court in Abuja.

It said the 6 am to 6 pm exercise would be observed every Monday "until Kanu is freed".

Southeast was on lockdown on Monday, with reports of killings and violence across the region.

IPOB had praised its security arm, the Eastern Security Network (ESN) for successfully enforcing the lockdown.

Yesterday in Imo State, the police said they arrested a native doctor, Ikechukwu Umaefulam, suspected to be IPOB's chief priest.

The Commissioner of Police, Abutu Yaro, in a statement by the command's spokesman, Mike Abattam, said a pump-action rifle with live ammunition was also recovered from him.

"Sequel to the ceaseless raids on the proscribed IPOB/ESN camps and the successful neutralisation and decimation of the terror groups in the state, the command has arrested the chief priest of the terror group.

"On 4/8/2021, at about 1820

hours, while interrogating suspects arrested from Okporo, Orlu LGA, one of the suspects revealed that they now patronise spiritual homes before attacking police stations.

"The suspect led the ever-active Imo command's tactical team to the home of one Ikechukwu Umaefulem, the Chief Priest and Spiritual leader of Life Sabbath Synagogue Amii, Akabo in Ikeduru LGA.

"When his spiritual home and premises were searched, police recovered one pump action gun with five rounds of live ammunition," he said.

He added that one improvised explosive device, knockouts, gun powder and a Biafran flag were recovered from him.

Traders counted their losses yesterday in the aftermath of Monday's lockdown.