

Three bandits, two police officers killed in Imo shootout



Imo State Police Command's Anti-Kidnapping Unit has killed three suspected members of **Indigenous People of Biafra** (IPOB) and its armed wing Eastern Security Network (ESN) in a shootout.

But two police officers died in the gunfire.

The operation, which took place on December 19, this year, in Orogwe, **Owerri** West Local Government Area, followed extensive investigation and intelligence gathering.

Police sources said the suspects on sighting the police operatives engaged them in a fierce gun battle, which resulted in the neutralisation of three suspects and arrest of two others.

Confirming the incident, the police spokesman, Henry Okoye said two suspects David Ifeanyichukwu (20) and Abuchi Joseph (24) were arrested during the operation that lasted for several hours.

According to him, the syndicate was responsible for the abduction of one Osuji Caleb Chimereze and three others on November 12, this year, during which they stole a Mercedes Benz and other valuables.

Related News

- Troops neutralise 13 IPOB members, nab 3 kidnappers, recover firearms in S/East
- Police kill four IPOB members, five sustain injuries in Imo shootout
- Alleged terrorism: Court frees 50 defendants accused of being IPOB members

Read Also: [Police recorded 30,313 arrests, recovered 1,984 firearms, others in 2024 – IGP](#)

"The police operation, which took place on December 19, 2024, in Orogwe, Owerri West Local Government Area, followed extensive investigation and intelligence gathering," he said.

He said: "During the confrontation, the operatives recovered six AK-47 rifles, 131 rounds of live ammunition, a local gun, and two stolen vehicles.

“Unfortunately, two police officers sustained injuries during the exchange of fire and later succumbed to their injuries. The Imo State Police Command mourns their loss and commends their dedication in the line of duty.”

He said efforts were focused on capturing the other members of the syndicate who escaped.

He said the State Police Command was intensifying patrols and security operations in synergy with other security agencies to ensure a hitch-free yuletide.

“We are committed to ensuring the safety of all residents, especially during the holiday season,” he said, adding: “We urge the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station.”