

② Four IPOB men gunned down in Anambra

• Two soldiers die in 'accident'

FOUR men said to be members of the Indigenes Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) and Eastern Security Network (ESN), its security arm, have been shot dead by troops of the Nigerian Army at Ihiala town in Anambra.

One of the four men was said to a leader of the proscribed organisation.

The Director, Army Public Relations, Brig.-Gen. Onyema

Nwachukwu, said in a statement yesterday that the IPOB men were enforcing the illegally imposed sit-at-home order, firing randomly near a fuel station in the town.

He said the men were killed in a shootout with the soldiers.

According to Nwachukwu, items recovered from them included one motorcycle, two pump action double-barrel guns, 12 live cartridges and

substances suspected to be cannabis, among others.

The spokesman said a vehicle belonging to the troops was involved in an accident during the operation.

"One gallant officer and a soldier paid the supreme price in the accident, while two sustained injuries. The injured are currently responding to treatment at a military hospital," he said.