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Buhari urges leaders to unite in condemning violence

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has urged community, regional and national leaders to unite in speaking against the escalating level of violence across the country.

The President, who was reacting to the shooting and subsequent beheading of a couple, who were military personnel, Master Warrant Officer Audu Linus and Private Gloria Mathew, in Imo State last Saturday, directed security agencies to track, arrest and bring perpetrators to justice.

Security sources, including the Army, had pointed accusing fingers at the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) as being responsible for the gruesome murder and decapitation of the couple, who reportedly were on their way to Nkwerre in Imo State for their tradition-

IPOB denies involvement in act

From Emma Elekwa, Onitsha

INDIGENOUS People of Biafra, (IPOB) has described as laughable and fallacious, a statement credited to the Army that it was responsible for the killing of a couple on transit in Imo State after their wedding.

The group said it had no hand in the atrocity, which it described as an abominable act in Igbo tradition.

In a statement by its Media and Publicity Secretary, Emma Powerful, IPOB explained that no true Igbo would hurt an in-law, let alone a married daughter (Ada) in Igbo land.

It warned security agencies to leave the secessionist group alone, saying the Army and police were confused institutions beclouded to see the truth as a result of their bias.

• Expresses shock over beheading of soldier couple

From Bolaji Ogundele,
Abuja

al wedding.

In a statement issued by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Mallam Garba Shehu, President Buhari condemned the killing and eventual beheading, describing it as barbaric.

He said the recent in-

crease in attacks on security personnel was alien to all cultures and civilisations.

Buhari called on all leaders - community, regional and national - to "speak with one voice, to show that the entire country is against this cruel and barbaric act of violence. This is unacceptable.