

Gunmen enforcing sit-at-home kill six in Enugu, Imo, kidnap expatriates

• *We didn't issue sit-at-home order- Kanu's counsel Ejiofor*

From Chris Njoku, Owerri; Damian Duruiheoma, Enugu and Sunny Nwankwo, Umuahia

otherwise activities of law-abiding citizens, under the guise of enforcing illegitimate sit-at-home order.

In a statement issued through the spokesman of the command, Daniel Ndukwe, the CP consequently reassured that the command, collaborating with other security agencies and law-abiding citizens, will never rest on its oars in ensuring that the lives and property of the citizenry are protected against the undesirable activities of disgruntled and misguided criminal elements, hell bent on causing unwarranted havoc to selves and fellow citizens.

The Commissioner, therefore, urged all and sundry to remain vigilant, go about their lawful businesses and resist succumbing to the antics of the miscreants, including the spread of tension-causing fake news.

He also enjoined them to continue to support and cooperate with the Police and other security agencies, in their unwavering quest to quell the activities of the criminal elements.

To this end, the CP called on the people of the State to remain law-abiding, security conscious and promptly report criminal suspects and their activities to the nearest police station.

2) The Imo killings occurred at Umuahia in the Isiala Mbano Local Government Area of the state and at Umuna in the Onuimo LGA, respectively.

The victims were security aides of expatriates supervising the ongoing construction of the phase 11 of the Owerri- Okigwe road.

The expatriates who are staff of German construction giants, Cremburg were kidnapped.

Locals told our correspondent that the fleeing suspects operated in three vehicles.

Our correspondent saw a video footage where two young men were lying in the pool of their blood at Umuna.

An eyewitness said "they just killed these two men now at Umuna. This act was carried out by gunmen enforcing sit-at-home. This just happened now, now. We are now afraid."

2) Gunmen had earlier on, on Friday killed Prince Chidi Iheme, the elder brother of Nollywood actor, Osita Iheme popularly known as Pawpaw.

Iheme was killed at Ubomiri in the Mbaitoli LGA of the state while allegedly on transit to a campaign rally being organised by the All Progressives Congress candidate for Mbaitoli/Ikeduru-Federal Constituency, Akarachi Amadi.

The state Commissioner for Solid Minerals, Martin Eke, whom he was riding in the same vehicle with, was badly injured with a machete.

Meanwhile, Akarachi has condemned the killing of Iheme, whom he described as one of his supporters.

The politician in a statement issued by his media aide, Darlington Irobi, on Friday night, also condemned the attack on the state Commissioner for Solid Minerals.

While commiserating with the family of the deceased, the politician prayed for the quick recovery of the injured commissioner.

The statement read "it is with deepest knowledge of regrets, sense of personal loss and concern, we write to condemn the ugly incident that occurred

today at Amawuihe Autonomous Community in Mbaitoli Local Government Area.

"The information of the sporadic shooting at Amawuihe Ubomiri in Mbaitoli Local Government Area that claimed the life of an APC strong supporter, Prince Chidi Iheme, while we were at Egbeada Community canvassing for votes is quite regrettable.

"We also decry the deadly attack on the State Commissioner for Solid Minerals, Hon Martin Eke, who was riding in the same vehicle with Prince Iheme.

"While condemning the act, we deeply sympathise with the Iheme family of Amawuihe Autonomous Community and ask God to show them the mercy of comfort to bear this irreparable loss.

"We also wish Hon Eke speedy recovery as we will do everything possible to assist him come back to his feet as quickly as possible."

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Ohafia Local Government Area, Dr. Okorafor Ukiwe has directed the immediate ban of all vigilante outfits in the local government area.

Ukiwe also directed the arrest of anyone found with dangerous weapons at night by law enforcement agencies.

The directive was coming on the heels of the present security situation which has left some communities at loggerheads with the military at 14 Brigade Ohafia.

The Ohafia council boss also directed that all illegal firearms should be properly licensed with the appropriate agencies or should be immediately surrendered to the traditional rulers for proper profiling and amnesty.

A press statement signed by the Secretary to the Local

Government, Lady Okoro Nkaku, advised all law-abiding indigenes of the area to go about their normal businesses without any fear of molestation and cooperate with the law enforcement agents to ensure peace and security in the local government even as the yuletide season draws closer.

Part of the statement reads: "All government offices, banks, motor parks, markets, and business centers should open for businesses on Mondays as anyone enforcing sit-at-home orders in the local government will be arrested by the law enforcement agencies."

IPOB's Lead Counsel, Sir Ifeanyi Ejiofor, Esq. (KSC), yesterday clarified that the five-day sit-at-home order was not issued by the Mazi Nnamdi Kanu led group.

He said: "The general public is aware that the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), which I am its Lead Counsel, never ordered any sit at home in the Southeast or anywhere else.

"As a matter of fact, IPOB totally condemned and distanced itself from the sit at home that was ordered by some criminal elements, who are bent on destroying our homeland and people. This is contained in a statement I had issued on the 5th December, 2022, as directed by Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra; and also in a statement issued by the leadership of IPOB on the 6th December, 2022."

We had erroneously reported that the order was given by IPOB without making reference to the disclaimer made by the IPOB counsel in our report published yesterday. The error is highly regretted as there was no deliberate attempt to cast the group in a bad light.