

Imo police kill three gunmen in shootout

From Chris Njoku, Owerri

THE police yesterday killed three suspected members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the Eastern Security Network (ESN) in a foiled attack on Agwa police station, Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State.

The hoodlums however burnt the Agwa Central Vigilante Group building. The attack caused panic among residents as the police engaged the hoodlums in a shootout when they attempted to burn the police station.

Police spokesman Michael Abattam said a quick response to a distress call prevented the hoodlums from burning the police station, but three of the gangsters were killed in the ensuing gun battle.

He said: "About 11:30hrs, in response to a distress call that hoodlums, suspected to be members of the proscribed IPOB and ESN, had attacked the Agwa Central Vigilante Group, burning its office, and are proceeding to attack the Agwa Police Station, the command's Tactical Teams swiftly mobilised to the area.

"Having been informed that the hoodlums had cordoned the station, the police operatives maneuvered their way into the station, joined operatives of the division and professionally engaged the hoodlums in a fierce gun duel. Three of the hoodlums died neutralised while others scampered to safety with injuries."

Abattam added that two Pump Action guns, two Double Barrel guns, 24 rounds of live ammunition, 12 expended cartridges, one Improvised Explosive Device (IED), three operational vehicles, two motorcycles, one iron box, one travelling bag and assorted charms, were recovered from the forest. He said efforts were been made to arrest fleeing members of the gang, while the bodies have been deposited in the mortuary.