

Anambra: Four policemen, three gunmen killed in another shootout



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Four policemen and three gunmen were yesterday killed in a shootout while one police patrol and three exhibit vehicles were set ablaze in Anambra State.

The hoodlums were said to have killed the policemen in their attempt to burn down Awada Police Station.

The Nation learnt that the policemen repelled the attackers.

The gunfire exchange terrified residents of the area, it was said.

A resident, who preferred anonymity, said, “It was terrible last night for people living close to Awada police station, it was as if war had come upon us.

“This morning, gunmen invaded the station, set some parts of it on fire, killed three policemen which included DPO Isiowulu police station, newly recruited constable and one inspector.

“With the help of the military men that surfaced, police were able to kill three of the gunmen and arrested two.”

Police spokesman Tochukwu Ikenga confirmed the incident, saying two suspects were arrested, while three rifles, one automatic Pump Action gun, Lexus 330, charms and other incriminating items were recovered from them.

He said, “Today 20/02/2023 at about 02:20 am, gunmen suspected to be IPOB/ESN members attacked Awada Police Station in Idemilli North LGA of Anambra State using Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and automatic firearms.

“In response to the attack, police operatives attached to Anambra State Command engaged the assailants jointly with troops from 302 Artillery Regiment of the Nigeria Army, in a gun duel and three members of the outlawed IPOB/ESN were fatally wounded while three Kalashnikov rifles and one Automatic Pump Action gun were recovered from them.

“Other items recovered from the assailants included a brown Lexus 330 with reg no. GWA 415BB ABJ, one unregistered KYMCO motorcycle suspected to be stolen properties, charms and other incriminating items.

“During a mop-up operation by police/military operatives, two male suspects reasonably believed to have participated in the attack were apprehended.

“Regrettably, four police operatives paid the supreme price while a section of the station, one police patrol vehicle and three exhibit vehicles parked in the premises were set ablaze by petrol bombs thrown into the station by the assailants.

He said Commissioner of Police, Echeng Echeng, while conducting spot assessments, ordered immediate deployment of all command’s operational/investigative assets to track down fleeing members of the murderous gang.

“The CP further appeals to residents of Awada and the good people of Anambra State to remain calm as the police, in collaboration with sister agencies, will not rest on its oars until the criminal elements tormenting the state are brought to justice.”