

One killed, many injured in police, outlaws gun duel



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July 21, 2023

A member of the Amaifeke, Orlu Local Vigilante Group has been killed and others injured during a gun battle with suspected members of the proscribed [Indigenous People of Biafra \(IPOB\)](#) and its armed wing Eastern Security Network (ESN).

The criminals were said to have stormed the palace of the Chairman, Council of Imo State Traditional Rulers, Dr. Emmanuel Okereke at Amaifeke in Orlu in commando style but were fiercely resisted by policemen and local vigilantes.

In the gun battle that ensued, two of the vigilantes were said to have sustained severe injuries and were rushed to the hospital for medical attention where one of them died.

It was gathered that the gunmen who could not withstand the firepower of the security forces, retreated into adjoining bushes with gunshot injuries.

Spokesman for Imo Police Command, Henry Okoye, confirmed the incident yesterday, adding that the other injured vigilante member was in a stable condition at the hospital.

“On combing the adjourning bushes blood stains were seen which evidentially suggest that the hoodlums were fatally hit,” said Okoye.

He said an intensive manhunt had commenced to apprehend and prosecute the assailants.

But IPOB through its spokesman, Emma Powerful, denied involvement in the insecurity ravaging the Southeast.

“IPOB maintains that the insecurity ravaging the Southeast region is a Nigeria State sponsored blackmail against Ndigbo, particularly against IPOB’s peaceful movement for Biafra referendum.

“We have constantly condemned and disassociated ourselves from the unknown gunmen and insist that Nigeria security agencies know those behind the masked unknown gunmen.”

“These unknown gunmen were those who led the prison break at Owerri Correctional facility on April 5, 2021, for three hours without any resistance from the government’s security operatives. They also led covert operations at Suleja Abuja Prison on July 5, 2020, without security resistance.”

“If these men were not government agents, how could they have done these? How can a non-state actor carry out jailbreaks for hours without security resistance?” he queried.