

# Soldier feared killed as ESN militia hoist Biafran flag in A'Ibom community

Iniobong Ekponta | Uyo

AS the ongoing operation by the Nigerian Army to ~~dislodge militia of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) in the South-East intensifies, fleeing~~ members of the group have invaded part of Akwa Ibom State, setting up a camp at Ikot Akpan community in Essien Udim Local Government Area of the state and hoisting the Biafran flag.

One soldier was reportedly killed during an exchange of gunfire with the ESN militia, with the operational van of the military Joint Task Force (JTF) razed, forcing the soldiers to retreat.

The incident was a fallout of the attack on Monday by hoodlums on the residence of a police inspector identified

as Aniekan, who was burnt to death in his house at Ikot Afanga community in Essien Udim LGA.

A resident of the community who wants to remain anonymous said: "Soldiers of the Joint Task Force (JTF) were drafted to contain the militia when police operatives who tried to storm their camp at Ikot Akpan community were repelled by the militia group.

"The entire community of Ikot Akpan has been deserted by residents who have fled to neighbouring Ikot Ekpene, Abak and Uyo local government areas for fear of being caught in the crossfire when the military relaunches its operation," Chief Effiong Inyang, a community leader in Essien Udim said.