

NEWS

Raid on suspected IPOB/ESN camp: one police killed, 2 injured, van burnt

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| Owerri

A policeman attached to Imo State Police Command Owerri, has lost his life while two others sustained bullet wounds, during a raid on IPOB/ESN camp located at Akata in Oru East Local Government Area of Imo State.

The Commissioner of Police, Imo State, Hussiani Rabi, disclosed this on Saturday in Owerri through a statement issued by the command's Public Relations Officer, CSP Michael Abatham, adding that a police Hilux vehicle was also burnt.

The CP said that the state police command had raided a camp sequel to credible information by the command's intelligence unit, revealing that some persons suspected to be IPOB/ESN members were seen mobilising to attack police formations and government installations in the state from their camp.

The commissioner said

that the command immediately dispatched the command's special forces and tactical teams led by the officer in charge of Operation Restore Peace, ACP Evans Shem, to go and dislodge the suspects as a proactive measure to nip their planned attack in the bud.

The police boss explained that on approaching the camp, the teams were attacked by the suspects.

He revealed that the armoured personnel carriers and sophisticated weapons used by the police against the suspected IPOB/ESN members overwhelmed them, resulting in their scampering into the bush for safety.

CP Rabi said that the head of the group and others were neutralised during the attack.

He added that in the course of search in the camp and the surrounding bushes, arms and other items were recovered which included three Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs) two pump action guns, nine cartridges, one locally made pistol and

one Toyota Highlander SUV vehicle with registration number IMO DFB 535 LC which were taken to the station

The CP said that on their way back, unknown to the police team, the suspects had reinforced and regrouped laying ambush by using palm tree logs to block the entire exit paths in the bush.

According to him, the police on getting to the fourth blockade came under heavy attack while removing the fourth palm tree log.

He said that the suspected IPOB/ESN members threw petrol bombs and Improvised Explosives Devices (I.E.Ds) at the police vehicles but they were successfully dislodged by the tactical teams as several of them were neutralised and others fled into the bush with bullet injuries.

The CP said that unfortunately, one of the police Hilux vehicle was burnt due to the petrol bombs thrown on it, while three police officers sustained bullet injuries and were rushed to the hospital.

Petroleum marketers succumb to strike in Imo