

# METRO

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## Gunmen enforce sit-at-home order in Enugu

Five feared killed, vehicles razed, commuters stranded

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**T**HE supposedly suspended weekly sit-at-home protest put in place by the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) to press for the release of its detained leader, Nnamdi Kanu, from the custody of the Department of State Security (DSS), took a dramatic turn on Monday in Enugu State.

Some people were seen disrupting vehicular movements at Topland, Amechi Road, Enugu South Local

Government Area of the state, where some vehicles were reportedly razed.

It was gathered that in the ensuing melee, gunmen shot sporadically into the air to disperse road users before setting a vehicle and bus ablaze.

A shop owner in the area who spoke on phone to newsmen said the gunmen stormed the area at about 8:45 a.m. and shot into the air.

"The gunmen, not wearing any uniform, appeared from nowhere and started shoot-

ing into the air.

"They said they were enforcing the sit-at-home order and they burnt a vehicle and a keke [tricycle] that were on the road."

Security operatives immediately rose to the occasion, mobilising to the affected areas to disperse the hoodlums.

The development forced people who had gone out to their various places of work and business to return home.

Some of the affected areas include GRA, Holy Ghost, Uwani, Trans Ekulu and the

suburbs of Abakpa Nike and environs.

There was general pandemonium in the whole of the state, even to the rural areas, as the sporadic shootings went on for a long time, including on interstate roads and expressways.

An eyewitness said the gunmen, passed through the streets, charging residents to obey the sit-at-home order.

The source said about 50 gunmen were seen at Holy Ghost roundabout alone.

"They were asking people to close their shops, obey the

Monday sit-at-home order or face the consequences," the source said.

Another eyewitness at Abakpa Nike in Ugo Nwene said he did not see anyone but only heard gunshots.

The eyewitness said: "All of a sudden, people were running into one other, vehicles colliding, noise of gunshots rent the air and I had to close my shop and run too."

The source said they were told that some hooded men were shooting everywhere inside the town, "so we had to run for safety."

Another eyewitness, Stella Eke, who recounted her ordeal in Uwani and Trans Ekulu, said: "At Uwani, I just saw people running, closing shops and many vehicles reversing. No one knew who was chasing them, but we heard some people were shooting into the air."

About five were reportedly killed, though the police have yet to confirm this.

The development resulted in market centres in the suburbs and outlying towns, expressways and streets being deserted.

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