

# Police raid criminals' hideouts, kill one in Imo

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THE tactical team of the Imo State Police Command has raided criminal hideouts inside a forest belonging to the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at Onicha in Ezinihitte Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State.

This is sequel to the mandate of the state Commissioner of Police, Rabiuh Hussaini, ordering security operatives to raid all major criminal enclaves identified in the state to neutralise all crimes and criminalites with sole aim to sustain the already improved security situation in the state.

Speaking in a statement issued through the Public Relations Officer, CSP Michael Abatham, on Saturday, the police commissioner said that the raiding of the hideouts followed an intelligence report that some IPOB members are using the forest as their operational base from where they go out to perpetrate crimes.

He said that based on

the information, the command's tactical teams after carrying out diligent surveillance of the hideouts on January 18, 2022, stormed the place, but were resisted by some hoodlums therein, which led to an exchange of fire.

CP Rabiuh said in the gun battle, one of the hoodlums was captured, while others scampered into the adjoining bushes with gunshot injuries.

He said some of the exhibits recovered during the combing of the bush include 147 rifles with 40 rounds of live ammunition, 10 locally fabricated explosive devices, one police hand grenade, two Toyota Highlander (SUV) without registration numbers, one Lexus 350 SUV, one Lexus 330 SUV, two Biafra flags, different assorted charms and dresses suspected to belong to kidnapped/robbed victims.

The commissioner further appealed to people of the state not to allow criminals to use their community as safe haven for heinous crimes.