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Four gunmen killed in Aba during clash with soldiers

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FOUR gunmen lost their lives on Wednesday following a clash with soldiers attached to the 144 Battalion of the 14 Brigade of the Nigerian Army in Aba, Abia State.

Reports from the area said the incident, which occurred at about noon, took place

at the Uratta, Aba axis of the Enugu-Port Harcourt expressway.

The gunmen, who wore black attires, had marched through popular streets and markets, warning traders and residents of a sudden imposition of a two-day sit-at-home order slated for Thursday and Friday.

They had warned residents

and traders about the consequences of disobeying the order.

It was alleged that the sit-at-home order was intended to be observed across the south-eastern states to protest a proposed visit by President Muhammadu Buhari to Ebonyi State on Friday.

While disseminating the information, which forced

some shop owners to start closing their business premises, the gunmen were said to have had an encounter with the soldiers stationed at Uratta Junction.

Four of the gunmen, including their leader, were reportedly killed, while others escaped with gunshot wounds.

A source from the military

at the 14 Brigade who spoke on the condition of anonymity confirmed the incident, stating that "some gunmen had a face-off with soldiers of 144 Battalion stationed at Uratta axis of the Enugu-Aba-Port Harcourt expressway."

"The face-off led to the death of four of the gunmen, while others sustained injuries."

The source further confirmed the recovery of charms and live tortoise from the suspected leader of the group who was among those killed.

Efforts to get the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Geoffrey Ogbonna, to confirm the development failed as his mobile phone number was not connecting.