

Gunmen attack Anambra vigilante operatives, kill four, raze buildings

Michael Ovat | Awka

GUNMEN on Thursday morning attacked operatives of the Anambra Vigilante Service, killing four of them.

The incident occurred in Ihiala Local Government Area of the state at about 2:00a.m.

Ex-Abia lawmaker, son escape assassination by gunmen

Nnanna Nwogu | Umuahia

A former lawmaker in Abia State, Ikedi Ezekwesiri, and his 11-year-old son, on Wednesday evening escaped death after some gunmen attacked them.

Ezekwesiri is a two-term state lawmaker who represented Umuahia in the state House of Assembly.

Recuperating in a hospital in Umuahia after a surgery, Ezekwesiri told newsmen

The gunmen were said to have attacked the operatives at the local government secretariat.

A source said the gunmen, who beheaded one of the vigilante operatives, also used improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and petrol bombs to raze five buildings in the area.

Police authorities in Anambra State confirmed the

incident to newsmen.

Spokesperson for the police, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, said operatives were alerted to the development and they moved in immediately.

He said one of the gunmen was killed by police operatives during a gun duel that ensued.

Ikenga said: "Following the police/military operations going on in Ihiala and

neighbouring towns, operatives responded to a distress call at about 2:55a.m.

"The attack was on Ihiala Local Government headquarters, and one of the attackers was neutralised.

"Operatives recovered two locally-made IED launchers, seven undetonated IEDs, 40 pieces of live cartridges, 15 live 7.62MM AK-47 ammunition, knives,

charms and other dangerous weapons."

Ikenga said by the time police operatives arrived at the scene, the attackers had already murdered four vigilante operatives on duty, including one who was beheaded.

He said they had also set five buildings ablaze with IEDs and petrol bombs.

"The joint force opera-

tives engaged the arsonists/attackers and obstructed them from causing further damages, while some escaped with bullet wounds.

"The bodies of the victims were recovered and joint operations are still ongoing in the area.

"Further developments on the incident shall be communicated," the police spokesperson said.

Troops killed 52 terrorists, rescued 115 civilians in three weeks —DHQ

Jacob Segun Olatunji | Abuja

THE military high command on Thursday said troops have killed 52 Boko Haram/Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) in the last three weeks.

The Director, Defence Media Operations, Major-General Musa Danmadami, who stated this in Abuja while briefing newsmen on operational successes in the period under review, said the troops also rescued 115 abducted ci-



One of the buildings attacked with improvised explosive device (IED) in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra, on Thursday. Photo: Nigeria Police.

Policeman killed during rescue of abducted