

Soldiers' killing: Army raids IPOB camp in Abia, kill six

2. TROOPS of Operation Udo Ka have neutralised six terrorists following Saturday's raid on the camp of the proscribed Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) and its armed wing, the Eastern Security Network (ESN) in Igboro forest, Arochuku Local Government of Abia State.

The Nigerian Army disclosed this on its X handle on Sunday, saying that the operation was embarked upon to apprehend the perpetrators of the attack on its troops in Aba last week.

The army said that during the intelligence-led operation, troops encountered Improvised Explosive Devices along its axis of advance and one soldier sustained minor injury from the fragment.

"The terrorists' feeble firefight were adequately subdued with superior firepower that led to the neutralization of 6 members

of the criminal terrorists group while others escaped into adjoining bushes with varying degrees of gunshot wounds as blood stains were seen along their escape routes.

"The gallant troops recovered three locally-fabricated Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) launchers, two locally-fabricated artillery guns with tripod and bombs.

"Other items recovered include dane guns, Biafran flags as well as Toyota Tundra and Hilux vehicles that were burnt insitu. Also all of their camps with different inscriptions were destroyed," the statement read in part.

It added that the Joint Task Force Operation Udo Ka called on the people of Abia to continue to cooperate with security agencies by giving credible and timely information that will help to annihilate the criminals in the state and the whole of

South-East.

Recall that six soldiers were killed last week in an attack by the IPOB/ESN members.

The attack took place at Obikabia junction checkpoint in Obingwa Local Government Area adjoining Aba metropolis, where troops of Operation Udo Ka were deployed to enforce peace in the area and protect residents.

The attackers were said to have arrived in three-tinted Toyota Prado SUVs and others from built-up areas surrounding the checkpoint.

Six civilians were killed in the crossfire that ensued between the terrorists and the troops.

Following the killing of the soldiers, the military, in a statement by its spokesperson, Major-General Edward Buba, vowed that it would go after the perpetrators.

"The armed forces mourn the death of these troops as

each and every soldier lost in battle is a terrible loss. Meanwhile, investigations are ongoing concerning the attack.

"Overall, it must be reiterated that the lifeline of the terrorist is the people and this situation is no exemption. Winning the war without the support of the people is close to impossible. The IPOB capitalised on this to perpetrate attacks on the troops. The situation leaves more to be desired.

"Accordingly, it is absolutely imperative that the military retaliate against this dastardly act against troops. The military would be fierce in its response. We would bring overwhelming military pressure on the group to ensure their total defeat," the statement read in part.

The IPOB/ESN terrorists launched the attack on the soldiers while enforcing a sit-at-home order across the South-East region.