

Akwa Ibom raids: Army kills two more militants

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Etim Ekpimah, Uyo

The troops of 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, have killed two more militants, including the second-in-command to a suspected kidnap kingpin, Akaninyene Jumbo, aka *Iso Akpafit*, who was killed by the troops on Monday.

The militants, Aniebet Udoh and Thankgod Osiokpaphi, were reportedly shot dead on Tuesday following military raids on their hideouts at Ikpe village in the Etim Ekpo Local Government Area.

The Assistant Director, Public Relations, 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Major Umar Shuaib, who made the disclosure, added that the gunmen had engaged the troops in a shootout.

He noted that the criminals could not withstand the superior firepower of the military.

“After our first operation, which led to the killing of *Iso Akpafit*, our gallant troops, following another tip-off, invaded the hideout of the remaining gang members at Ikpe village in the Etim Ekpo Local Government Area on Tuesday. We engaged the hoodlums in a shootout and killed two of them, namely Aniebet Udoh and Thankgod Osiokpaphi. The other kidnappers escaped with gunshot injuries,” he said.

According to him, items recovered from the hoodlums include one pump-action gun, two locally-made shotguns, 13 live cartridges, eight expended cartridges, two dane guns and two cutlasses.

He explained that the corpses of the two men had been deposited at the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital mortuary.

He recalled that the troops of 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, on Monday, acting on a tip-off trailed the leader of the gang, Jumbo, at Inyih village, a border town between Akwa Ibom and Abia states.

He said, “Jumbo was known for terrorising the inhabitants of the Ukanafun LGA in Akwa Ibom State. He was behind the killings of two police personnel and a truck driver in Ukanafun on November 17, 2017 and also masterminded the killing of a commissioner’s sister and two others in Ikot Oko Osun community, also in Ukanafun on November 19, 2017.”

He said the Commander, 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Brig. Gen. Abdu Hassan, had assured law-abiding citizens in the area that the brigade would do everything within its power to protect lives and property while soliciting their cooperation by reporting any form of crime to security agencies.