

Four Imo police station invaders killed, Buhari condemns attacks

Stephen Angbulu and
Chidiebube Okeoma

GUNMEN on Sunday morning attacked the Omuma Divisional Police Headquarters in the Oru East Local Government Area of Imo state.

Omuma is the home town of the governor of the state, Hope Uzodimma.

The attack came just 24 hours after yet- to- identified gunmen attacked Umuguma Divisional Police Headquarters situated in the Owerri West Local Government Area of the state, killing two policemen on duty, burning vehicles and freeing suspects in cells.

Same night, gunmen also attacked the country home of the President- General of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Prof George Obiozor, at Awo-Omanma in the Oru East LGA.

Confirming the latest attack, the police spokesperson for the command, Micheal Abattam, said four of the attackers were killed as policemen and the operatives of the Department of State Services engaged the gunmen in a gun battle.

Abattam, a Chief Superintendent of police said, "On March 20, 2022 at about 0300 hours, hoodlums suspected to members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra/ Eastern Security Network terrorist group came in large numbers with various calibres of Improvised Explosive Devices to Omuma police station, shooting sporadically but, were swiftly repelled by combat ready Imo

Police Command's tactical teams and operatives of the DSS who responded immediately.

"The operatives engaged the hoodlums in fierce gun duel and in the process, four of the bandits were neutralised on the spot while other scammed on the bush having suffered a huge defeat."

Meanwhile, the President,

Major General Muhammadu Buhari (ret'd.), on Sunday in Abuja, described as "deeply distressing" the destruction in Imo State, of buildings and assets of the police and the home of Obiozor.

In a statement by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, the President called for calm in the South East, while consoling

those affected by the violence.

The statement was titled 'President Buhari condemns violence in the South East, consoles Obiozor.'

The President, who condemned the violence in the area, urged everyone to maintain peace, adding that the law and order situation in the entire Southeast is being reviewed.

Kwara APC women leader killed as soldiers, hunters battle kidnappers

Tunde Oyekola, Ilorin

Awoman leader of the All Progressives Congress was reportedly shot dead in Kwara State on Saturday during crossfire between bandits and a combined team of soldiers and hunters.

The woman, identified as Mrs Olumo Abolaji, who was the APC women leader in Koro Ward of Ekiti Local Government was one of the eight people kidnapped on Wednesday evening between Araromi-Opin and Obbo-Ile in Ekiti Local Government Area

A'Ibom teachers reach truce with govt, suspend strike

Patrick Odey, Uyo

THE Akwa Ibom State chapter the Nigeria Union of Teachers has suspended the industrial action which it declared to protest the failure of the state government to pay its members' entitlements.

This was contained in a statement titled "Suspension of strike" dated March 18, 2022 and signed by the State Chairman, Edet Emenyi; and the Senior State Secretary, Victor Amirize.

According to the statement made available to newsmen on Sunday in Uyo, the suspension

of the state.

The politicians were returning home when gunmen suspected to be bandits waylaid them on the way after the swearing in of the state executive of the party performed by the state governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, in Ilorin.

The PUNCH gathered that five of the eight people involved escaped from the kidnappers.

A relative of one of the victims, Mr Adekunle Oluwole, confirmed that five of the eight people involved escaped from

the kidnappers.

He listed those involved as the Isapa Ward Chairman, Mr Daniel Adewuyi; the Eruku ward Chairman; Women Leader Eruku; Women Leader Obbo Ile; Chairman Obbo Ile Ward; Women Leader Koro ward; and Women Leader Isapa ward, among others.

He however said the women leaders of Eruku, Obbo-Ile and Koro wards were taken away into the forest by the kidnappers.

He said some of the victims who escaped from the bandits

"These understanding were arrived: the immediate commencement of payments of leave grant for 2017 and 2018 and immediate commencement of payments of one month minimum wage arrears to primary schools teachers."

The union noted that both parties also agreed on the appointment of a committee comprising of NUT, Nigeria Labour Congress and government representatives to dialogue on the template for instalment payment of 2019, 2020, and 2021 leave grants to primary school teachers.

inhabitants of the area as has been happening in Southern Kaduna, Benue state and some other places.

"What is desirable is residency right as is the case in countries we look up to such as the United States of America, Europe and the like. If you have lived in those countries for certain number of years and you satisfy certain conditions, you are given residency status with rights and privileges that are almost akin to that of an indigene. That is what we should emulate here."

were taken to the hospital in the area for treatment.

Oluwole also hinted that four Hilux vans loaded with soldiers, local hunters and vigilante men were drafted to the forest to trail the kidnappers and rescue the victims.

The state Police Public Relations Officer Ajayi Okasanmi, could not be reached for his reaction on the fate of the kidnapped persons on Sunday as his telephone line was switched off.

But the state chairman of the APC in the state, Sunday Fagbemi, said that two of the three victims were rescued alive.

He said, "Two of our party women leaders in Eruku ward and Obbo-Ile ward were rescued alive, but unfortunately we lost one of them because the woman leader of Koro ward was killed by the bandits."

"The two women were rescued by security men including soldiers, hunters and vigilante men without paying a kobo as ransom."

"The late women leader in Koro ward has been buried today (Sunday) in Koro and we are just returning from the burial."

→ 2