

Six policemen, four others killed in Kogi, Imo

**GBENGA ODOGUN and
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Six policemen, two Indians, and two drivers have been killed in separate attacks by gunmen in Kogi and Imo states.

The Kogi State Police Command said it had launched a manhunt for the suspects that killed two inspectors, the expatriates, and the two drivers on July 29.

The Commissioner for Information, Kingsley Fanwo, said the state was collaborating with conventional and unconventional security agencies to bring the killers to justice.

Fanwo, in a statement, blamed the security breaches on cowards who wanted to undermine the government's efforts to provide adequate security for the people of the state.

He said, "What we have always

done in such circumstances is to go after the criminals, apprehend them and bring them to justice. The governor is personally coordinating the rescue efforts in collaboration with the security chiefs in the state as well as local vigilante groups. There is already a massive deployment to the area to achieve results.

"In Kogi State, the life of everyone matters. The governor and the government of Kogi State understand that the number one responsibility of the government is the protection of the lives and property of the citizens. The Kogi State Government will never shirk such responsibility,

"We urge the people of Ajaokuta and indeed Kogi State, in general, to go about their normal businesses as we have put in place stringent security measures to ensure the safety of all. The government will spare no resources to ensure our cherished children are rescued alive and unhurt.

The commissioner said that the ongoing ban on nose masks, brothels, and shanties subsisted because it was a measure to restrict criminals in the state. While calling on hotel owners to profile their guests, he urged the Federal Government to resuscitate the Ajaokuta Steel Project, because the abandoned facilities and structures served as a hideout for criminal elements.

Meanwhile, the Imo State Police Command four police officers attached to Agwa Divisional Police Headquarters in the Oguta Local Government Area of the state were killed on Friday. Its spokesperson, Micheal Abattam, also accused the Indigenous People of Biafra and its affiliate, Eastern Security Network, of attacking the police station.

Abattam said that police would "leave no stone unturned" to bring the killers and curb insecurity in the state.

Recounting the incident, the PPRO said, "On August 5, at about 2300 hours, hoodlums suspected to be members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra and its militia affiliate, Eastern Security Network, attacked Agwa Police Station in their numbers. The hoodlums who came in two vehicles and a tipper, shooting indiscriminately, used a tipper vehicle to force the gate open to gain entrance into the station, throwing improvised explosives devices and petrol bombs.

"The Commissioner of Police, Imo State, CP Mohammed Barde, who went to the scene on confidence-building patrol and on-the-spot assessment of the incident, visited the Eze of the community, Ignatius Asor, in his palace where he assured him and members of his community of the Command's commitment in ensuring that peace is restored."