

Military kills two IPOB fighters, arrests five in Delta

Solomon Odeniyi, Abuja

NO fewer than two fighters of the Eastern Security Network, the military wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra, were on Monday killed by security operatives in Asaba, Delta State.

The Director, Army Public Relations, Brig. Gen. Onyema Nwachukwu, disclosed this in a statement on Tuesday.

He said the ESN members were killed during a confrontation with a combined team of Nigerian Army, Police, and Department of State Services personnel in the Fuji Junction area of Asaba, Delta State.

Nwachukwu said the team responded to a distress call from residents in the community and on getting there, the ESN members engaged them in a fierce gun battle, adding that due to the superior power of the security agents, the criminals withdrew to their hideout.

Nwachukwu added that the IPOB members were trailed to their camps where five members were arrested and weapons recovered from them.

He said, "Combined troops of 63 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, the Nigeria Police and operatives of the Department of State Services have neutralised two IPOB/ESN fighters and arrested five others after a fierce encounter that took place on Monday, July 17, 2023, at the Fuji Junction general area in Asaba, Delta state.

"The encounter followed distress calls that the community was under attack by terrorists, to which the combined troops swiftly responded.

"The terrorists succumbed to the overwhelming firepower of the troops, after two of their members fell in the gunfight that ensued, while the survivors fled to their hideout around the Okpanam River.

"The troops in pursuit of the fleeing criminal elements successfully trailed them to their enclave in a house around the Okpanam River, where they were nabbed.

"The troops also recovered

one AK-47 rifle, one pump-action semi-automatic rifle, 15 live cartridges, one AK-47 rifle magazine and a Baofeng radio receiver."

Police reject Kwara cops' wrongful dismissal claim, vow prosecution

Solomon Odeniyi, Abuja

THE Nigeria Police Force has upheld the dismissal of Sergeant Shola Akano and Corporal Babatunde Glorious attached to the Kwara State Command.

Alamo and Glorious had claimed their dismissal from the Nigeria Police Force was based on their refusal to accept a bribe to compromise an investigation they were conducting.

However, the Force spokesperson, Muyiwa Adejobi, in a statement on Tuesday, said a panel set up to investigate the claims by the policemen found their story to be untrue and upheld their earlier dismissal.

According to Adejobi, the dismissed officers were found guilty of extorting money from two suspects in an advance fraud fee case they handled in 2020.

Adejobi said, "According to findings by the Special Investigation Unit, Force Criminal Investigations Department, Abuja, which reviewed their case, the duo of Sgt. Shola Akano and Corporal Babatunde Glorious were attached to the Public Complaint Bureau, Office of the Public Relations Officer, Kwara State Police Command.

Their primary duty was to handle complaints brought forward by members of the public bordering on police unprofessionalism and misconduct.

"Unfortunately, during the investigation of a case of conspiracy and advance fee fraud in February 2020, they engaged in misconduct that warranted their dismissal from the Nigeria Police Force. In the course of investigating the case, the duo arrested two suspects - Fatai Olarewaju and Awogbemi Olayinka, a student

He said the Chief of Army Staff, Maj. Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja, lauded the combined team for their effort, urging them to sustain the synergy.

Onyema implored the public to continue cooperating with security agencies by providing actionable information to support their operations.

of the Federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara State.

"On February 7, 2020, the officers booked and took one of the suspects, Olarewaju, from the police cell where he was detained to a Zenith Bank branch at Unity Road, Ilorin. They coerced the suspect into withdrawing N1,190,000.00 from his account, which was collected by Corporal Glorious. Following this, the suspect was returned to the cell and later released on administrative bail on the same day. However, the withdrawn sum, two mobile phones, and other personal effects were not released to him.

"Rather than following the proper procedure, Sgt. Shola Akano and Corporal Babatunde Glorious continued to demand more money from the suspect to close the case, thus engaging in further acts of extortion. These actions were in direct violation of their duties and code of conduct as police officers. This prompted Mr Fatai to report the matter to the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the IGP X-Squad for investigation.

Sustain air attack against terrorists, commander tells troops

THE Theatre Commander, Joint Task Force North-East Operation, codenamed, Hadin Kai, has charged the air component of the military to sustain the tempo of the operation, to decimate the terrorists in the entire North-East.

Chibiusi gave the charge on Tuesday when he visited the Air Command Component in Maiduguri, Borno State in continuation of his familiarisation visit to formations and units under the theatre command.

He pledged all the necessary support to the component, to aid the command's operational activities.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that on arrival at the Air Force base, the theatre commander was received by the Air Component Commander OPHK, Air Commodore G.I. Jibia, alongside the Commander, 105 Composite Group, Air Commodore E.P. Bindul.

The theatre commander said he was impressed by troops turnout as well as he detailed briefing he got.

"Subsequently, verifiable evidence, including the conversion of one of the mobile phones, an iPhone 11 Pro, for personal use by Corporal Glorious, was presented during their trial.

"Based on a thorough examination of the evidence and the testimonies of all parties involved, the duo were found guilty and dismissed from the Nigeria Police Force."

Adejobi said many panels set up to probe the duo's sacking had affirmed their dismissal and recommended them for prosecution, adding that charges would be filed against them.

"It is essential to note that the same complaint of wrongful dismissal was made by the officers before the #EndSARS panel in Ilorin. Their dismissal was upheld after a careful review of the evidence and testimonies from all concerned parties.

"A series of reviews and recommendations from panels upheld the dismissal and prosecution of the duo, and they will be prosecuted accordingly," Adejobi said.