

# Soldier, 3 others die as troops clash with gunmen in Anambra

From **Geoffrey Anyanwu** (Enugu) and **Molly Kilete** (Abuja)

**FOUR** persons, including a soldier, died in a clash between Nigerian Army troops engaged in the ongoing Golden Dawn military exercise and gunmen in Anambra State.

The other three dead persons were said to be among the gunmen that had attacked policemen at a checkpoint at Okija along Onitsha-Owerri expressway on Thursday, October 7 before the troops attached to Sector 5 of Exercise Golden Dawn stormed the scene and neutralized three of the gunmen.

Confirming the incident in a statement, the Director Army Public Relations, Brig. Gen. Onyema Nwachukwu, said the gallant troops on getting there engaged and overwhelmed the gunmen with superior firepower, forcing them to flee the scene.

His words: "Troops however gave them a hot pursuit, and

engaged the gunmen in a gun duel. Three of gunmen, who drove in two vehicles (a Hilux and Hummer bus), eventually succumbed to troops' effective firepower while others fled with gunshot wounds."

Nwachukwu said the troops

recovered one vehicle and two motorcycles. He said troops were conducting further exploitation of the general area for the fleeing terrorists, just as he confirmed the loss of one soldier in the encounter.

He said, "Unfortunately,

a soldier paid the supreme price, in the line of duty, for his country. The Chief of Army Staff commends the troops for the feat and urges them to sustain the momentum against all criminal elements operating in the region."

## Abia SS3 student fakes own kidnap, blames mother's stinginess

From **Okey Sampson**, Umuahia

**SEVENTEEN**-year-old Obinna Nwatu, a senior secondary school 3 (SS3) student of in Abia State, has been arrested by operatives of Abia State Police Command for faking his own kidnap with intent to extort money from his mother, Mrs. Rose Nwatu.

Obinna, a native of Obikabia in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area, claimed he feigned his abduction because of his mother's stinginess.

Briefing newsmen in Umuahia, Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Janet Agbede, said on September 19, 2021, one Wisdom Nwatu

of Obikabia in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area, reported that on September 18, 2021 at about 1800hrs, his younger brother Obinna Nwatu of same address was kidnapped.

Agbede said Wisdom Nwatu informed the police that the alleged kidnapping took place along Stadium Road, Okpuala Ngwa, by hoodlums operating with ash colour Toyota Sienna family van.

According to the CP, Wisdom further stated that his younger brother went out to buy recharge card that evening when the purported incident occurred.

The Anti-Kidnapping Squad of the Command while investigating the case, on

October 4, 2021, arrested one Chinaza Favour Ukaigwe, 19, whose bank account was used to receive a ransom of N200,000.

The CP disclosed that Ukaigwe revealed that Obinna Nwatu faked his own kidnap.

"He stated that Obinna Nwatu and one Favour Ugorji a.k.a. "Wizzy" came to his shop at Aba Road, Abia State and requested that he should give his bank account number to enable them receive the school fees of their younger sister."

Further investigations revealed that Obinna Nwatu and Ugorji received through the account the sum of N200,000 paid in as ransom by Mrs. Rose Nwatu (mother of Obinna Nwatu).

It was gathered that Obinna Nwatu was not actually abducted. He conspired with Favour Ugorji a.k.a. "Wizzy" (now at large) to deliberately go into hiding at a hotel along Rhema University Road, Aba.

"Obinna Nwatu, an SS3 student who lives in a boarding school decided to fake his own kidnap, claiming that his mother, Mrs Rose Nwatu is stingy. Obinna Nwatu also claimed that he met Favour Ugorji online in 2017, but had never been to his house or knew much about him other than Facebook conversations."

Agbede advised parents and guardians to closely monitor their children and wards.

## Asaba 1967 massacre: Monarch renews call on FG for compensation

From **Paul Osuyi**, Asaba

**THE** Asagba of Asaba, Obi (Prof) Chike Edozien, has renewed the call on the Federal Government to establish a university in Asaba as part of measures to compensate for the October 7, 1967, genocide.

Prof Edozien said the request was a modest one compared to the emotional and psychological impacts of the massacre in which thousands of Asaba men were mowed down by federal troops during the civil war.

The monarch, who spoke yesterday at the 54th memorial anniversary of the horrific murder, recalled that he told former Head of State, Yakubu Gowon, on the need for the university as far back as 1995.

Saying that Gowon who was in power when the genocide was committed promised to support the agitation, the royal father, however, lamented that nothing has been heard from the present administration. He noted that he had also briefed Vice President Yemi Osinbajo about it.

"We are calling on the Federal Government to honour

what the former Head of State said. Gowon was the Head of State when this massacre took place. The Federal Government should build a university in Asaba. Our request is very modest in comparison to the pains of the massacre," he said.

In a keynote address, former President of the United Nations Security Council, Prof Joy Ogwu, re-echoed the pressure from the international community on the Federal Government to admit its 1967 genocide and crime against the people Asaba and humanity in general.