

# Police foil gunmen attack at Uzodimma's community, kill 4

...Vigilante vehicle razed in another incident

From **Stanley Uzoaru,**  
**Owerri**

**THE** Imo State Police Command at the early hours of Sunday repelled attack by gunmen who attempted to raze the Omuma Divisional Police Station, in Oru West Local Government Area of the State, hometown of Governor Hope Uzodimma.

However, four of the hoodlums were shot dead by security agents who repelled them.

According to a statement by Imo State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Michael Abattam, the gunmen suspected to be members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), came with explosives and other dangerous weapons to attack the station, but were subdued by the swift response of the tactical team of the command and the officers of the Department of State Services (DSS) on ground.

"The police operatives engaged the hoodlums in fierce gun duel and in the process four of the bandits were neutralised on the spot, while other scampered into the bush having suffered a huge defeat, with a number of them sustaining various degrees of bullet wounds. While there was no casualty on the side of the joint security operatives", Abattam said.

He said Police Anti Bomb Unit has taken custody of five undetonated different capacities of Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs), recovered from the neutralised bandits for detonation, as well as their charms.

According to Daily Sun Investigation, gunmen on the previous night, also at-

tacked operatives of the Abba vigilance group and Abba Security Network in Nwangele LGA of the state.

A source from the community told our correspondent that the vigilance groups were

as usual on duty patrolling the community at about 10 pm when the gunmen attacked them.

The source said that the gunmen who stormed the community with over 10

motorcycles, shot sporadically in the air to scare the natives, who were almost getting ready to go to bed.

He said: "They came from Okwelle community in the Onuimo LGA and chased members of the vigilante group, shooting at their vehi-

cle and they abandoned it and fled into the bush. The gunmen chased them inside the bush, shooting sporadically, "but frustrated that they could not achieve their aim, they visited their anger on their Sienna bus being used for patrol and set it on fire," the source said.

## ISWAP leader, Sani Shuwaram, killed after NAF airstrike

• Gorgore for replacement

**LEADER** of the Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP), Sani Shuwaram, and other members of the sect might have been killed after an airstrike in the Marte axis of Lake Chad.

According to a report by PR-Nigeria, the super Tucano jets and other aircrafts of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) executed multiple bombardments in the axes where Shuwaram's camps were located.

Shuwaram, in particular, was said to have died from gunshot wounds he had sustained when military fighter jets raided ISWAP camp at the Sabon Tumbuns general area of Lake Chad.

The news of the killing of Shuwaram was also corroborated by a highly placed intelligence source involved in the counter-insurgency operation, in the Northeast who confided in PRNigeria.

"Shuwaram was among terrorists injured by NAF air interdiction missions conducted at Sabon Tumbuns near Kirta Wulgo in February 2022. Subsequent airstrikes in the following days might have led to his death alongside other ISWAP fighters where they were receiving treatment including Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi," the source added.

Meanwhile, PRNigeria gathered that one Mallam Bako Gorgore has been

nominated as the new Wali of ISWAP to replace Shuwaram.

When contacted, NAF Spokesperson, Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, who declined to confirm the death of Shuwaram said that NAF aircraft with the support of ground troops have sustained military offensive at Tumbuns, close to Kirta Wulgo in Marte LGA within the Lake Chad Region..

Gabkwet said: "I cannot confirm the death of any leaders of terrorists. We don't

want to be dragged into making any statement or confirmation based on rumours or hearsay. Nevertheless, our troops at the frontline alongside other agencies have sustained massive strike at the hearts of terrorist leaders and their enclaves until we get this job done".

Members of the ISWAP Shura (Judicial) Council, in November 2021, appointed Shuwaram, 45, as a new Leader (Wali) in Lake Chad.

Sources then told PRNigeria, that the little-known Sani Shuwaram replaced Aba-

Ibrahim, who was appointed by Abu-Mosab Albarnawi's Interim Committee, following a directive from the Headquarters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), in August 2021.

Shuwaram was sworn by an Alkali (Judge) Bukar Arge, in a brief ceremony in KURNAWA, a remote camp in the Lake Chad Basin fringes, considered as the de-facto headquarters of ISWAP, in Adamawa Local Government Area in Borno State.

## Ex-victim of human trafficking jailed 1yr for same offence in Edo

From **Tony Osauzo,**  
**Benin**

**A** 24-year old former victim of human trafficking, Ese Glory Edomwonyi, has been sentenced to one year imprisonment for the same offence in Edo State.

Edomwonyi was few years ago rescued at Seme border while being trafficked by a suspected human trafficker.

The Commander, National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP), Benin Zonal Command, Nduka Nwanwenne, said in a statement in Benin, that

Edomwonyi who is a house wife and mother of five, was arraigned in charge No: B/NAPTIP/9C/2022, before Hon. Justice Irele Ijeje of Court 3, Criminal Division of the Edo State High Court Benin city for the same offence.

The statement explained that she was charged for engaging in acts of trafficking in persons contrary to Section 13 (4)c of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2015. The defendant pleaded guilty to the offence.

"Mrs Edomwonyi, who is also known as Mama Gift recruited a 14-year

-old girl, Miss X, for her sister Lovette, who resides in Burkina Faso.

"On arrival at Burkina Faso, the victim was subjected to beatings, denial of food and slavery when she objected initially to engage in prostitution. She was later sold to another lady, who forced her into prostitution, thereby losing her virginity. The traffickers collected all her earrings.

"The victim was later rescued after the arrest of the convict who was sentenced to one year jail term with an option to pay N300, 000 fine", the statement added.