

# Tension as soldiers invade Anambra community, kill 1, injure others

From **Obinna Odogwu, Awka**

**THERE** was tension in the Umunze community, Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State, yesterday morning, following the invasion of the town by well armed soldiers.

The military men, upon arrival, shot in the air at the Nkwo Market area while ordering the traders to close their shops. That action threw up pandemonium as everybody ran helter-skelter seeking refuge. Apart from the Nkwo Market and all the shops in that vicinity, all the schools in that area quickly closed as parents withdrew their children. The roads, within a few minutes, equally got deserted.

Yesterday's invasion, Daily Sun gathered, followed the previous day's attack on some soldiers by the gunmen who killed five officers and one civilian in that community.

President General of the town, Chief John Akanyeonu, told Daily Sun that the soldiers had opened fire on his people when they stormed the crime scene at about 3pm, on Wednesday, injuring some of the residents. He said one of the people who were hit by the army's bullets died yesterday morning, while others were still struggling to stay alive in various hospitals.

Akanyeonu said: "Yesterday, there were some bullet wounds. In fact, one of them lost his life early this morning. Those people (gunmen) breezed in from the direction towards Abia State, opened fire on the military men at the bank, shot all of them, entered their vehicle and zoomed off immediately.

"When the army arrived, they opened fire, shooting sporadically in the air. Some people sustained gunshot injuries.

I don't know the exact number, but I saw about three: one girl, one boy and this boy that lost his life early this morning. The boy operates a barbing salon here."

On yesterday's incident, the PG said: "On their normal routine, they came down in their numbers, telling people to close their shops and they gave them two hours to do that. They shot

live bullets also. After some while, people deserted that area."

Asked what the community was doing about the ugly development, he said: "We have made some calls to the DSS office and the DPO here. We have also called some top military officers and I think they are discussing with their

colleagues to take it easy with our people.

"All the schools around here were shut down. And there is no hope of reopening tomorrow. Because of their behaviour, people were so afraid," Akanyeonu further lamented.

Meanwhile, a trending video on the military's invasion showed people running away

for safety, everywhere deserted. The maker of the video also showed a pellet he picked from the Nkwo Market area.

Efforts to speak with the state's Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, proved abortive as his phone line was not reachable as at the time of filing this report.

## Killers of soldiers must pay, Soludo vows

### Igbo group condemns killing, demands justice

From **David Onwuchekwa, Nnewi** and **Adanna Nnamani, Abuja**

**ANAMBRA** State Governor, Professor Charles Soludo, has strongly condemned the killing of soldiers who were ambushed on a routine patrol at Umunze, by yet to be identified gunmen, in Orumba South Local Government Area of the state.

The governor, through his Press Secretary, Mr Christian Aburime, described the incident as wicked and cruel.

He vowed that the perpetrators of the act must pay, adding that his government will not rest on its oars in fishing out the perpetrators, including the attackers of Senator Ifeanyi Ubah and the rest. Governor Soludo vowed that there would be no hiding place for them.

"Going forward, our actions will show, as these people must surely pay for this heinous and repulsive attack," governor Soludo further said.

The governor, therefore, urged Ndi Anambra to remain calm and law-abiding as the security agencies were on top of the situation.

Meanwhile, a group, under the aegis of Igbo People of Nigeria (IPN), has condemned the murder of soldiers.

A statement by Anayo Mbakwe, yesterday, described the incident as a national tragedy, barbaric and unacceptable.

Mbakwe said: "The people of the southeast are known to be loving, welcoming and hospitable. The latest turn of events, particularly in Anambra is a serious cause for concern.

The group recalled the recent assassination attempt on the Senator representing Anambra South, Ifeanyi Ubah, at Nkwo Enugwu-Ukwu in Njikoka Local Government Area. Mbakwe believes the two unfortunate incidents have striking similarities and are distasteful to humanity in general, and in Igbo land in particular. He said: "Killing of any sort, whether political, agitational or accidental, is an act of terrorism and must not be condoned."

He, therefore, called on security agencies to fish out the perpetrators and make them pay for their crimes. Mbakwe also urged the security agents

to tame the alarming rise in assassinations in Anambra, especially with the 2023 elections on the horizon.

While commending the Nigerian Army for some notable strides in the region and across the nation, the Igbo people of Nigeria said the Chief of Army Staff should give more attention to Anambra. He said troops must not relent on recent successes, noting that pockets of criminal elements were already capitalising to wreak havoc.

(Continued on [www.sunnewsonline.com](http://www.sunnewsonline.com))

## Why soldiers, police brutalised commissioner corps -DCG

From **Ighomuaye Lucky, Benin**

**THE** Deputy Commander General (DCG), Corps of Commissionaire, Brigadier General David Buba (ret'd), yesterday, said members of the Nigerian Legions Corps Commissionaire are often being brutalised by the Nigerian Armed Forces or the officers and men of the Nigerian Police Force because the operation of the Corps is not known to them.

He made the disclosure during his official working visit to the Edo State Command of the corps, in Benin City, adding that his administration is poised to putting an end to such maltreatment, through visitations to the various military commands, to inform them of

the activities of the corps with a view to fostering cordial relationships among them.

"My purpose of coming here is to achieve my dream of rebranding. I want to rebrand how we do things, so that when we are competing with other people outside, they will say, yes, I better go for this because, if you don't rebrand, your market will be falling.

"So, I am following the economist's thinking that, let us rebrand ourselves and tell people who we are, what we can do, and do it very well. Basically, I have taken my time in all the visit I've conducted, to make people aware because, if they don't know you, they can't work with you, and if they do not know you, also, you will be clashing with them in the way you are

conducting yourself, which I don't want.

"I have been getting reports of some of my men being mishandled by members of the armed forces or by police, and it is because they don't know you.

"So, all the places I visited, all the states, what I did and which I am going to do here, is to visit the command of the military in that location, meet with their officers and commander, and explain to him why the existence of the Nigerian Legions Corps Commissionaire and some of them confessed to me that they are just knowing it now that they have been seeing people wearing green like them, who they didn't know.

(Continued on [www.sunnewsonline.com](http://www.sunnewsonline.com))