



# ① Anxiety as troops bomb IPOB\ESN camps in Enugu community

...IPOB washes hands off killing of 4 soldiers in state • As residents flee

From Geoffrey Anyanwu, Enugu

**NATIVES** and residents of Akpawfu community in Nkanu East Local Government Area of Enugu State yesterday were thrown into deep fear and tension as the area came under heavy bombardments following alleged raiding by troops of secret camps of suspected Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) members and armed bandits, in the community.

This is as the leadership of IPOB has debunked accusations and reports linking the group to the recent murder of four Nigeria soldiers in Enugu State.

Sources disclosed that the raiding of Akpawfu, which was carried out by land and air troops that stormed the community started on Thursday, but became intensive yesterday morning with military helicopters dropping explosives in forests within Ajeme Akpawfu village where the hoodlums terrorising parts of Nkanu land and Enugu city were believed to be hiding.

Though details of the raid could not be ascertained as at press time, reliable sources said that the hoodlums also engaged the troops in a shot-out within the forests.

The same community, it could be recalled was sometime ago raided by a combined team of security operatives where many of the hoodlums

were reportedly neutralized and their camps destroyed, yet the area, residents confirmed, has remained a major black spot and security threat in the state.

Confirming the military operation in his community to newsmen, the traditional ruler, Igwe Nnamani, said that though he was presently out of the community, several persons had called to inform him of the development.

The monarch disclosed that members of his family, including his wife and children left the community yesterday to a safe place, just as many other residents must have also fled their homes.

Igwe Nnamani who spoke on phone expressed hope and prayed that peace would be

restored to the community after the ongoing security operation.

However, a resident who pleaded anonymity claimed that he fled the community yesterday with members of his family and relocated temporarily to Enugu for the safety of his family following the development.

He said: "As I am speaking with you, people of neighbouring communities of Oruku and Akpugo said they are hearing deafening sounds of explosives and sporadic gunshots and so many people have relocated to these communities for fear of being cut down in the operation. In fact, Akpawfu is not safe right now.

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