

Ex-Militants Avenge Colleague's Killing, Murder Imo Official

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Officials of Imo Security Network (ISN), a security outfit founded by Governor Rochas Okorocha of Imo State, yesterday shot dead a former militant. The former militants from Ohaji-Egbema Local Government Area were going to Owerri, the state capital, to surrender their arms in continuation of the amnesty peace deal with the state government. They were confronted at the Control Post area of the state by members of the ISN. The ensuing altercation

led to the shooting of one of the former militants.

The former militants later retaliated by killing an ISN official. After the shooting, the ISN officials rushed the victim to the Specialist Hospital, Umuguma, where he was later pronounced dead after efforts to save his life failed.

When they got to Umuguma to know the state of their wounded colleague, the former militants were informed of the death of their colleague. The atmosphere instantly became charged as temper rose. They asked for the body of their kinsman the hospital refused because they were not the ones who took him there.

However, all hell broke loose as the former militants went on the rampage. They vandalised some hospital facilities and burnt about

six vehicles on the hospital premises. Although many people fled the neighbourhood while some offices were momentarily shut down, the angry youth were not yet done.

They attacked the Imo Environmental Transformation Commission (ENTRACO) office which also houses the ISN. The angry former militants killed one ISN operative and critically injured another which caused a stampede.

No fewer than four vehicles were also burnt at the ENTRACO office. But for the timely intervention of the police, the angry youth would have attacked other government facilities. The state Commissioner of Police, Taiwo Lakanu, led the intervention to secure the Specialist Hospital, ENTRACO

office and other government facilities.

The state Police Public Relations Office (PPRO), Andrew Enwerem, confirmed the incident. He, however, said normalcy had returned to the area as security personnel had been deployed to protect lives and property. Enwerem said investigations were ongoing and promised that the culprits would be brought to book.