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...CRIME, CITY WATCH, COURTS

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METROSteve Uzoечи
OWERRI**How terror kingpin, 'Onye-Army' who allegedly killed Gulak, was arrested at father's burial**

...led attacks on INEC, six police stations, others

A suspected terror kingpin, Nwangwu Chinwendu, popularly known as 'Onye-Army' in the underworld, has been arrested by the Imo State Police Command.

An army deserter and operational commander of the outlawed Eastern Security Network (ESN), Onye-Army confessed to have led the terror gang that killed Alhaji Ahmed Gulak and as the Chief Trainer of the ESN, has trained over 1000 fighters of the group.

Briefing newsmen in Owerri the Imo State capital, CP Mohammed Ahmed Barde said the 34-year old kingpin was a Lance Corporal in the Nigerian Army before he deserted to join IPOB/ESN and had been on the command's most-wanted-person's list for a long time.

Barde noted that the suspects

modus operandi is gorilla-like in nature as he was known to usually unleash surprise terror attack and immediately go into hiding in neighbouring states.

He said: "He was arrested, on 23/12/2022 at about 1030 hours in his hometown, Amahuru Nguru in Aboh Mbaise LGA, after diligent gathering of credible and technical intelligence, during his late father's funeral."

Our correspondent gathered that the suspect, apparently fearing a police operation, had stayed back at home, and decided not to attend the funeral church service of his late father so as to limit his exposure, but unknown to him, the police tactical team was already unto him.

CP Barde continued: "The suspect who sat on a vantage position while his members were on surveillance, on sighting the police operatives, some took to their heels while others engaged the police operatives in a shoot-out, using the burial crowd as a shield."

"The operatives retaliated professionally

and tactically to avoid bullets hitting innocent persons in the crowd. He was later arrested after a long chase alongside two of his gang members with bullet injuries while others escaped."

On searching the house and premises of the suspect, ex-Lance Corporal Nwangwu Chinwendu, the following items were recovered: Five (5) Pump Action guns; two (2) cut to size double barrel guns; four (4) locally made pistols; fifty (50) rounds of live cartridges; nine (9) locally made hand-grenades; ESN regalia and various charms and rings.

In the course of interrogation, the terror kingpin confessed to have enlisted into the Nigerian Army in 2013, where he trained as an engineer and became an expert in weapons handling and servicing of all heavy automatic weapons. He rose to the rank of Lance Corporal before he deserted the Army and joined the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its armed affiliate, Eastern Security Network (ESN) through someone he simply identified as Ebubechukwu.

He went ahead to become the Operational Commander and Chief Trainer of the outlawed group where he claimed to have trained over 1000 members in weaponry and terror attack in their camp located at Ogbotoukwu, a forest, in Obowo LGA of Imo State.

He further confessed to have led and participated in several vicious killings of Security personnel, attacks on INEC offices, burning of police stations, murder of innocent people, armed robbery/kidnapping, terrorism and narrated how, on May 30, 2021, they murdered Ahmed Gulak, the former Political Adviser to former President Goodluck Jonathan.

He was said to have confessed that he led the operation and they overtook and blocked the Toyota Camry Taxi car that was taking

Gulak and his friend to the airport and ordered them to come down.

"We shot him, but the bullet did not penetrate his body, so we went to him removed the rings on his right fingers, shot and killed him along airport road," the suspect had narrated.

Other attacks and killings he allegedly led include: the recent killing of the Labour Party Senatorial candidate, burning of his house and Jeep; he led his gang members including one Okechukwu Duru and others, to kidnap one Jude Nwahiri on November 4, 2021, collected ransom of N21,000,000.00, after killing four persons in the residence of the victim at Amahuru Nguru in Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State.

The list also murder of the traditional ruler of Amahuru Nguru Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, HRH Eze Anthony Anyanwu on 10/12/2021, the murder of a native doctor in Amahuru Nguru, Uzodimma Abaiwe on 25/12/2021.

It also include the murder of one Ugochukwu Olewulike aka Taco; the youth leader of Amahuru Nguru Aboh Mbaise LGA Imo State.

The murder of one Krubo surname unknown, a native of Obiohia in Ahiazu Mbaise.

The killing of one Police Inspector and Police Sergeant at Aboh Mbaise Police Station the day his terrorist gang attacked and burnt the police station.

He led the attack at Ezinihitte Mbaise Police Station, Ahiazu Mbaise Police Station, Otoko Police Station Obowo, Ihitte Uboma Police Station, Enyigugu Police Station in Aboh Mbaise LGA.

He led the attack/murder of the onions truck driver along Mbaise Road, led the attack on INEC office in Ihitte Uboma LGA Imo State and killed two INEC staff.

He led the attack on INEC office Owerri along Owerri/Port Harcourt Road and killed two police officers. He led the attack on Mbano Vigilance Group and killed three of the vigilantes.

He led the kidnapping of the white men on road construction along Umuna Okigwe Road and killed the mobile police officer and soldier on guard duty.

He led the attack on Umuna Okigwe Police Station and killed one ASP Danjuma and Inspector Ebi Utom, and also stole their service rifles.

He was among the terrorist members that attacked Owerri Correctional Center and State CIIID Owerri on 05/04/2021.

He led the attack on the Rapid Response team at Ihitte Uboma on 22/12/2022, set the Hihux van ablaze and snatched their rifles.

He confessed to serial kidnappings, armed robberies and car snatching within the command in recent times.

He led the gang that murdered two Airforce Officers at Naze roundabout and snatched their service rifles.

According to CP Mohammed Barde, on 25/12/2022, the suspect volunteered and led the investigating teams joined by the military to their Camp in Obowo, but on arrival, they discovered that the hoodlums have hurriedly deserted the camp setting fire on two vehicles to conceal the vehicles' plate numbers, and on searching the camp the following items were recovered:

Five (5) GPMG guns; four (4) cut to size double barrel; five (5) pump action guns; three (3) locally made bombs; nineteen (19) rounds of AK47 live ammunitions; fifty-two (52) live cartridges; fourteen (14) teargas live canisters; two (2) police handcuffs; four (4) safety desert boots; various vehicle plate numbers; seven (7) Police Belts; numerous registered INEC Voters Card from INEC offices; three (3) ESN flags.

According to CP Barde, investigation is ongoing and the police operatives are working in synergy with the military and the community to arrest the fleeing members of the terrorist group.



The suspected killer

Seven women burnt to death, 7 others injured in Sagamu-Benin Expressway accidentOlufemi Adediran
ABEOKUTA

Seven women were yesterday burnt to death, while seven others sustained

State inbound Epe, for a church revival to user in the new year.

Akinbiyi said, 15 people, comprising of one male adult and 14 female, adding that, the driver of the bus escaped unhurt