

Sit-at-home: 2 feared dead as 'enforcers' raze vehicle in Enugu • Unknown gunmen raze Imo commissioner's house

By Chinedu Adonu & Chinonso Alozie

ENUGU—AT least two persons were allegedly shot dead and a Sienna vehicle burnt by miscreants said to be enforcing the Monday sit-at-home in Enugu.

Vanguard learnt that the hoodlums shot consistently as they dispersed passengers, leaving two people dead. Some passengers and drivers suffered gunshot injuries as they attempted to run for their lives.

Driver of the burnt Sienna who escaped the attack narrated how the hoodlums stormed the park with a mini bus while he was still waiting for passengers to fill the vehicle.

The driver said he was standing a distance away from his vehicle when the gunmen arrived the park in a mini bus and he started to move away from the vicinity as quick as he could.

According to the driver, "I learned that two persons were reported to have been shot dead during the attack which lasted few minutes.

"By the time I looked back to see what was happening, my Sienna was up in flames".

Enugu Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Daniel Ndukwe who confirmed the attack said that the police operatives have launched a manhunt for the hoodlums.

According to him, "Yet-to-be identified miscreants, operating in a mini bus shot an unidentified male traveler and in the process, torched a Sienna vehicle around Chris Chemist Roundabout Enugu in the early morning hours of today (yesterday)."

The victim was immediately moved to the hospital for treatment by Police Operatives, who responded to a distress call on the incident.

"He, however, was later confirmed dead by doctors on duty and deposited in the mortuary for preservation and autopsy.

"Meanwhile, manhunt of the assailants has been launched, while the said area and other parts of the state remain relatively peaceful," he said

Unknown gunmen raze down Imo commissioner father's house

In a related development,

unknown gunmen on Saturday night set ablaze vehicles and houses of Imo State Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General, Cyprian Akolisa and that of his aged father both in Obibi, Awo-Idemili, Orsu Local Government Area of Imo State.

The Commissioner confirmed this to newsmen in Owerri yesterday.

This is the second time, Akolisa's house was attacked. Other Commissioners who had suffered attacks included the Imo Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Declan Emelumba; Commissioner for Labour and Productivity, Ford Ozumba; as well as the Local Government headquarters of the same Orsu LGA among others.

Narrating how the unknown gunmen attacked his hometown, Akolisa said: "The Igbo are hardworking people who through their years of toils put up structures and leave developmental strides in their communities of origin.

"Through many years of struggle, I have managed to put a block on another to build a befitting house for my family. My aged father also has a house he built through his sweat. Today,

both buildings are in rubbles and ashes. Our fellow Igbo burnt them. Last year, these arsonists burnt my country home in Obibi, Awo-Idemili, Orsu LGA of Imo State for no just cause

"This year again, they returned and this time, they perfected the complete burning of even the blocks/bricks. And last night, to my utter consternation, they levelled my father's house. This is a house my father built by himself - the life-toil of an aged man.

"In other words, I wish to put on record that my family house is destroyed. This was after they used a truck to cart all the properties: fridges, TVs, bed/foams, generator sets and other household materials. What are my crimes, and who did I offend? And what were my father's offences? And I dare ask, where is the Igbo spirit? This is a direct affront to the *aku no uno* spirit. Who will invest in Ala Igbo or Orsu LGA today under this type of atmosphere?

"Other ungodly acts are the sacking and carting away of all the Police presence and armouries in Orsu LGA, the kidnapping and killing of well-to-do individuals and security operatives. This attendant scare has become a daily phenomenon

in my Local Government Area.

"Today, these gunmen under the guise of freedom fighters have continued to demand huge sums of money from mourning families who wish to bury their loved ones and the likes.

"It is now strictly business! These gunmen have almost made a god of themselves, killing and cannibalising at will in my area but believe me, they will not succeed with our voices up and collaborative efforts."

He recalled that "Arson is ongoing in my LGA of Orsu; there was complete burning of our LGA Secretariat; the house of my colleague - Prince Ford Ozumba, the Commissioner Imo State Ministry of Labour, Employment and Productivity was razed. The house of Ekene Nnodumele, the member representing Orsu State Constituency in the Imo State House of Assembly was also razed. There are also houses of other political leaders which have been razed in my area so far."

At the time of filing this report, the Imo State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Micheal Abattam, was yet to respond to the attack.

Ban on cows outside ranches takes effect April 27 —IPOB • Says no tribe's cow exempted from ban

By Chimaobi Nwaiwu

NEWI—THE Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, yesterday, said it will commence the enforcement of ban on cows outside ranching places on April 27 this year, saying that no cow including those owned by Hausa, Yoruba, Fulani, Igbo or any tribe in Nigeria is exempted from the ban.

IPOB also said that anybody interested in cow business anywhere in the South East must have a ranch and properly mark the cows.

IPOB in a statement by its Media and Publicity Secretary, Emma Powerful, entitled "Enforcement of ban on cows outside ranching places takes effect from April 27, 2022", also directed that owners of cows and ranches should properly mark them with their ranch name or symbol for easy identification.

IPOB statement read in part: "We the global movement

and family of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, under the command and leadership of our great leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, wish to make the following clarifications concerning the ban on the movement of cows which will take effect from the April 27, 2022.

"From April 27, 2022, we shall commence the enforcement of the ban on open grazing which has since been pronounced by South East Governors and passed into law by many states in Biafran land, but the Nigeria security agencies have failed to enforce them. Thus, from the said date, no cows should be seen roaming the streets of Biafraland.

"From April 27, 2022, anybody interested in cow business anywhere in Biafra land must have a ranch and properly mark the cows. Cows seen outside ranches with effect from this date shall be treated as contraband products. Owners of such cows should blame themselves.

"Owners of cows and ranches should properly mark them with their ranch name or symbol for easy identification. The spelt out measures have become necessary to stop the senseless and wanton killings in our land by jihadists masquerading as herdsmen.

"We want to stop the incessant invasion of our communities and raping of our mothers and sisters by herdsmen. Enough is enough! Our action is not targeted against any tribe. We are only taking this measure as a necessity for self protection and preservation.

"Igbo people alone in Biafraland spent more than N3 trillion naira every year on cows. We, therefore, want to curtail using our money to finance the genocidal attacks on our people by herdsmen.

"We want our people to breed native cows in our land and also put them in a ranch. We won't tolerate the wandering of cattle again in our land."