



How security operatives killed unknown gunmen gang leader in Imo

By Chinonso Alozie & Ike Uchechukwu

A leader of the "Unknown gunmen" popularly known as "Evil forest" terrorising Orlu and Orsu Local Government Areas of Imo State was, Sunday, gunned down at Ihioma in Orlu Local Government Area of the state by operatives of the Joint Security Task Force.

It was gathered, yesterday, that the notorious gang leader was killed during a gun battle around Akatta, Ihioma, axis of Orlu.

A security source told Vanguard: "These hoodlums entered the Orlu town through the Banana junction, shooting sporadically and you know our base is not far from the banana junction in Orlu."

"The soldiers responded and moved down to the Banana junction and by the time they saw the soldiers coming they ran towards Akatta, Ihioma axis and the soldiers followed them. It was there that they killed the gang leader."

They also claimed that the "Evil forest" is from Amadim, Amaifeke in the Orlu Local Government Area of Imo State.

Also confirming the killing, yesterday, in Abuja, Director, Army Public Relations, Brig.-Gen. Onyema Nwachukwu, said the gunman was killed in an encounter at Ihioma community in Orlu Local Government Area of the state.

Nwachukwu said troops of the 34 Artillery Brigade, Nigerian Army encountered members of the separatist group, who were firing sporadically at Banana Junction to enforce their illegal "sit-at-home" order on law-abiding citizens.

According to him, on sighting the troops, the IPOB/ESN criminals withdrew in a blue Toyota Highlander towards Ihioma community for reinforcement.

"In the firefight that ensued, one of the criminals was taken out, while others fled in disarray. Troops are combing the general area in a follow-up operation to track down the fleeing dissidents."

"Having suffered casualty and effectively denied freedom of action by the troops, the group have resorted to cheap propaganda to whip up public sentiments."

"This, they have done by circulating a doctored video on the social media alleging troops' complicity in their mindless atrocities. This propaganda should be disregarded in its entirety."

Kidnap kingpin, 3 others arrested in C'River hotel

In a related development, a notorious kidnap kingpin, Godswill Emmanuel a.k.a Emperor and three other members of his gang, who reportedly shot Governor Ayade's Security Adviser, Ani Esin in 2018, were, weekend, arrested in Cross River State.

A security source said Emperor was declared wanted by the state government in 2018 as well as the police, after he attacked and shot the Security Adviser to Governor Ben Ayade, Ani Esin, in his residence.

The source said: "The Tactical Unit of AKCS acting on credible intelligence extended surveillance and swooped into Opitex Guest House at Camp 29 in Anigbo, Akampka Local Government Area."

"It was at the hotel they arrested Emmanuel Godswill, aka Emperor, a notorious kidnapper, armed robber, who has been on the command/state's wanted list for shooting the ex-Security Adviser to Gov Ayade and kidnapped Mrs Veronica, wife of an Immigration Officer, as well as robbed Mr Ikechukwu Nzie at Mary Slessor, dispossessing him of his car (Toyota

●Kidnap kingpin, 3 others arrested in C'River hotel

Corolla, 2005 model) among other valuables.

"Emperor was arrested alongside his

second in command, Denis Onyekachi, a.k.a Jagaban and his Chief Striker, Edet Okon, the trio have confessed to various crimes, including the kidnap incident in 2018, 2019 and so on," the source revealed.

Windstorm displaces 1,326 households, destroys 463 houses in C'River

By Ike Uchechukwu

CALABAR—AT least 1,326 households have been displaced while 463 houses in three local government areas in Cross River State have been destroyed by windstorm.

The 1,326 households were affected as a result of the effect of the windstorm, which Vanguard gathered, occurred in Yala, Obudu and Ogoja, all in the Northern senatorial district of the state affecting 14 communities.

Mr Godwin Tepikor, Zonal Coordinator of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), South-South, and his team were conducted around the affected areas by the council officials and youths from the communities, yesterday.

While in Obudu Local Government Area, the team visited the affected communities of Bewbone, Abonkib, Bebuagbong, Igwo and Okworutung.

Tepikor told Vanguard that the assessment tour followed a 'save-our-soul' report from the Chairman of the



NEMA officials in one of the affected houses

Obudu council area, Mr Boniface Eraye, following a windstorm incident that occurred on April 12, 2022.

He said: "The disaster affected 503 households and damaged 249

buildings and other household property in Obudu Local Government Area.

"Also, in Yala Local Government Area, we visited five communities were affected by the windstorm. The communities are Okpoma, Otuche, Olachor, Idigbo and Igbeukor."

"The assessment followed a save-our-soul report from the Chairman of the local government, Mr Fabian Ogebeche."

"We were conducted

round the affected areas with officials from the Nigerian Red Cross, Police, Cross River State Emergency Management Agency and other members of the communities."

Mother of kidnapped female corps member cries to FG, NYSC ●Says daughter, Faith Onoriode, still with abductors one month after

By Jimitota Onoyume

WARRI—THE mother of a corps member, Miss Faith Onoriode, kidnapped on March 21 on the Abuja-Kaduna road around Regania community, has appealed to the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC and the Federal Government to help secure her release.

The daughter, Faith Onoriode, read Biology/Microbiology at the Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe, Oghara and was on her way to resume at the NYSC camp in Jigawa when she was abducted.

The call-up letter for the NYSC the family made available to the Vanguard among other information read: "Call up number: NYSC/DPO/2022/099882, Batch A, 2022. State of deployment, Jigawa."

The mother, Mrs Roseline Onoriode, said the incident was reported to the NYSC's authorities in Jigawa State.

She said the kidnappers are demanding N40 million ransom when they contacted the family.

"She is a corps member in Batch A that was posted to NYSC Jigawa orientation camp. She boarded a



Faith Onoriode.

vehicle from Sala's Global Motors, Effurun, Warri to Kano enroute Jigawa NYSC orientation camp. She was kidnapped along Abuja-Kaduna Road at Regania community some kilometres to Kaduna State on March 21, 2022."

"The incident was reported at the NYSC headquarters, Abuja and also NYSC Jigawa and even reported at the state command police headquarters at Kaduna but nothing has been done for her release. The family tried to negotiate with the kidnappers, the ransom they are demanding is N40 million."

"She has been with them for over one month and two days. NYSC has not even done anything to secure the release of my daughter, not even a call from them. Please, I am begging the Federal Government to help secure the release of my daughter."

"I am a poor widow, please help me. Please, I am begging with the name of God for my daughter's release and Nigerians please help me."

Man stabs farmer to death in Jigawa over firewood

POLICE in Jigawa have arrested a 25-year-old man, Saminu Muntari, for allegedly stabbing a farmer, Murtala Alhassan, to death over a firewood issue.

Police spokesman, ASP Lawan Shiisu, stated this in Dutse, yesterday, that the deceased had challenged Muntari on April 15 for trespassing into his farm to fetch firewood.

He explained that Muntari later went to the residence of the deceased and stabbed him with a knife for challenging him over the cutting of firewood from his farm without authority.

ASP Shiisu added that the victim died on the spot.

He said: "On April 15, the District Head of Kwalam Village in Taura Local Government Area informed the police that one Murtala Alhassan of Kaura Village noticed that one Saminu Muntari trespassed into his farmland and cut firewood."

"That Alhassan enquired from Muntari why he cut firewood from his farm without his consent."

"Later in the day, Muntari went to the house of Alhassan and stabbed him with a knife on the right side of his chest as a result of which he died

on the spot."

"Muntari also stabbed an eyewitness, Sunusi Nasiru, on his left hand for attempting to apprehend him," the police spokesman stated.

According to him, upon receipt of the report, the police moved to the scene and took the eyewitness to Ringim General Hospital for treatment.

The deceased was confirmed dead by a medical doctor at the same hospital.

Shiisu added that the remains of the deceased were later released to his family for burial.