

# Gunmen threaten to attack 10 LGAs in Anambra

•It's a fictitious letter —Govt •As condemnations trail burning of Anambra council hqtrs, killing of man

By Vincent Ujumadu  
& Nwabueze  
Okonkwo

**A**N ANONYMOUS threat letter being circulated in Anambra State claimed yesterday that 10 local government areas in the state are to experience gunmen attack soon.

But the state government described the letter as fictitious, advising people to go about their businesses.

The listed local government areas are Ihiala, Aguata, Nnewi South, Awka North, Awka South, Idemili North, Idemili South, Orumba South, Orumba North and Anambra East.

Authors of the letter were not known, although a commercial driver who claimed he saw the letter warned security operatives to get ready for them.

"These local government areas should wait for us soon. We are warning our dear Professor that it is time for action and not time to speak big grammar.

"All the security men occupying Biafra land should get ready for action. Go and tell the President to release our oga, Onyendu, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu or face continuous war. This is final warning".

Reacting to the threat, the chief press secretary to Governor Chukwuma Soludo, Mr. Christian Aburime described the letter as fictitious, urging the people of the state to remain

calm and law-abiding as government would soon restore normalcy.

He said: "That will be a fictitious letter of course. You know they have been attacking some local governments to frighten people.

"But there is government in place and the state government will ensure that peace and order are restored. We cannot allow people to hold the state and law-abiding citizens to ransom.

"Government has a responsibility to enforce law and order and that is what Governor Chukwuma Soludo is doing. But we ask our people not to take the law into their hands as government will handle the situation according to the provisions of the law".

Meanwhile, some people were seen at the popular Aroma junction in Awka discussing the latest development, even as the sit-at-home entered the second day on Tuesday with casualties recorded at Ogidi in Idemili North local government area where security operatives killed four persons allegedly enforcing the sit-at-home.

Anambra State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr Tochukwu Ikenga, who confirmed the killing said the command and other sister agencies had been on patrol to maintain law and order in the state.

However, security operatives were totally absent on the streets in Awka and people who braved

the situation to come out were going about unmolested.

Tricycle and few shuttle buses were also plying within the cities.

## Condemnations trail burning of Anambra council hqtrs, killing of man

Also yesterday, condemnations continued to trail Monday's burning of Idemili North Local Government Headquarters at Ogidi in Anambra State by heavily armed arsonists and killing of a yet-to-be identified young man at Umusiome village Nkpor near Ogidi by unknown gunmen

The arsonists had set ablaze some buildings at the council secretariat including a magistrate court and Enugu Electricity Distribution Company, EEDC, while the young man was shot dead at Nkpor.

Condemning the actions, Dr Boniface Agbala chairman of Idemili Leaders of Thought; Obioha Ireanoke JP, National Trustee/Anambra State Coordinator South East Nigeria Presidency Movement SENPM; Paramount Ruler of Ogidi community, Igwe Alexander Onyido; chairman of Mgbachu village Nkpor, Arinze Idemili and Bishop Abraham Chris Udeh of 'By Fire by Fire Ministry' Nnewi described the current spate of

insecurity in Anambra State in particular and southeast in general as very unfortunate.

Specifically, while Dr Agbala described the burning of the council buildings as a politically motivated action or better still, a deliberate in-house act perpetrated by insiders in the presence or absence of security personnel guarding the secretariat, Bishop Udeh alleged it could be the Fulani that perpetrated the act in their usual hatred for Ndigbo.

Bishop Udeh however cautioned Ndigbo against wanton killings and destruction of properties belonging to their fellow Igbo in the name of agitation.

The suspected gunmen had set ablaze the Idemili North Local Government secretariat in Ogidi and a magistrate court located in the premises.

Sources said the arsonists entered the premises on Sunday night to carry out the act.

They were said to have burnt down all files, properties in the secretariat, including the secretariat building.

Videos and pictures of the incident circulating online also showed that the entire buildings have been reduced to rubbles.

Vehicles parked inside the local government secretariat were also burnt to ashes.

Confirming the incident, the state police command's spokesman, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, attributed the incident to unidentified arsonists.

Ikenga said, "Yes, the incident was confirmed and our men were there to restore normalcy."