

# Police raid suspected IPoB, ESN camps in Enugu communities

- *Exhume body of colleagues buried in shallow grave*
- *You thrive on dishonesty, lies, blackmail —IPoB replies Police*

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**N**SUKKA—ENUGU State Police Command, yesterday, said its personnel raided two suspected Eastern Security Network, ESN, and Indigenous People of Biafra, IPoB, camps at Aguiheje, Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area and Oduma, Aninri Local Government Area, both in Enugu State.

A statement by the spokesperson of the command, Daniel Ndukwe, said the personnel discovered and exhumed the remains of a dead colleague, identified as Johnson Okpanachi, declared missing since July 30, 2022, at Aguiheje.

However, IPoB in a reaction described the Police claim as one of their many false, unfounded and malicious allegations aimed at destroying the organisation and giving false impression of working hard, when it is clear that they have failed in their duty of securing the people of the South East and Nigeria in general.

## Raid of suspected IPoB, ESN camps

According to the Police statement, it neutralised one ESN personnel, while others escaped with various degrees of gunshot injuries at Aguiheje, adding that the command recovered two AK-47 rifles and other ammunition when it raided another suspected ESN camp at Oduma, Aninri Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Part of the statement read: "In pursuance of the crime fighting strategies devised by the Commissioner of Police, Enugu State Command, CP Abubakar Lawal, to rid the state of criminals and their activities, Police operatives of the Command drawn from Tactical Squads and

Operation Restore Peace, between 11th and 12th August 2022, carried out a tactical and intelligence-driven dusk to dawn raid of IPoB/ESN camp in a forest, at Aguiheje in Enugu-Ezike community of Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area. The hoodlums, on sighting the operatives, engaged them in a gun duel, which led to the neutralization of one of them while several others escaped with varying degrees of fatal gunshot wounds, due to the superior firepower of the operatives.

"The operation led to the discovery and exhumation from a shallow grave in the camp, the corpse of their male victim identified as Okpanachi Johnson, a Police Officer serving in Igbo-Eze North Police Division of the Command, who had gone missing on 30/07/2022, with all effort made to trace his whereabouts proving abortive. Also recovered at the Camp are the following exhibits: twelve (12) firearms, including one AR-K2 Assault, six (6) Pump Action guns, one (1) locally-made Berretta-like pistol and five (5) locally-fabricated double-barreled guns; ninety-eight (98) live cartridges; two (2) machetes, one (1) digger, one (1) battle axe and one (1) hacksaw; five (5) motor vehicles, including three (3) Toyota Sienna minivans, one (1) Honda Pilot Jeep and one (1) Hiace (Hummer) bus loaded with assorted Ankara fabrics, all reported to have been snatched from their owners at different times within the area by the hoodlums; twenty (20) different brands of motorcycles with their number plates removed; one (1) Police bullet-proof vest; one (1) pair of Police camouflage uniform; one (1) pair of military camouflage uniform with a cap and military singlet.

"Others included: one (1) piece of red-black-green coloured clothing identified as Biafra flag

and another five (5) pieces of masquerade-like attires of the said flag colours; one (1) HP laptop with its bag; twenty two (22) different brands of mobile phones; six (6) different brands of Mp3 players; one (1) Canon camera.

Also recovered were six (6) torchlights; three (3) rolls of cello-tapes; one (1) air-pumping machine; one (1) small yellow-coloured generating-set; fifteen (15) fabric armless and five (5) plastic chairs; a set of musical equipment, including band set, piano, guiter and speakers the hoodlums are alleged to have stolen after invading a church in the area; seven (7) school bags; one (1) Camp bed and twenty one (21) pieces of table spoons.

"In a related development, the Police Operatives, on 08/08/2022 at about 9.15am, recovered two (2) AK-47 rifles with four (4) all loaded with a total of sixty four (64) rounds of 7.62mm caliber of live ammunition (currently in the custody of 82 Division of the Nigerian Army Enugu); one (1) locally-made cut-to-size gun; one (1) Dane gun; one (1) Lexus RX 330 and one (1) RX-300 Jeeps; one Honda Pilot Jeep, twenty five (25) machetes, two (2) axes, one (1) dagger, four (4) phones, a military camouflage uniform, two (2) Forest uniform trousers and fetish items suspected to be charms. The recovery is sequel to a distress call alleging that IPoB/ESN hoodlums invaded and set ablaze the house of a local vigilante at Oduma community in Aninri Local Government Area on the said date.

"Meanwhile, the Commissioner, while commending the operatives for the successful execution of the operations without any casualty recorded by the Command, has charged them to remain focused in actualizing the overall goal of ridding the state of unrepentant

criminal elements.

## You thrive on dishonesty, lies, blackmail --IPoB

But a statement by IPoB's Media and Publicity Secretary, Emma Powerful wondered when the Police declared their colleagues missing in Enugu or any South East State, only to exhume bodies of people they killed extra judicially to claim they were their colleagues killed and buried by IPOB and ESN.

"While we cannot dissipate energy joining issues with the ever dishonest, unreliable and can-never be trusted Nigeria Police, we will state that the Police in the South East have branded any violent criminal and kidnapper they arrested in the South East as either IPOB member or ESN operative.

"We are therefore not surprised that they will link IPOB and ESN with bodies of the people they purportedly exhumed, who in the right sense maybe people they killed extra-judicially or those kidnapped, killed and buried by their pampered and shielded Fulani terrorist herdsmen that have been kidnapping for ransom and killing people in Enugu State.

"Everybody knows that IPOB is not a violent group and does not kill anybody. We are never afraid to own up any action we are involved in. Killing of security agents is not part of our agenda, neither our agenda is killing of anybody.

"We have equally discovered that anytime we make any commendable step towards our march to Biafra freedom, dishonest Nigerian Government and their equally dishonest and lazy security agents, particularly the Police and Army will come up with one image damaging incident to paint IPOB and ESN black, but unfortunately for them, we have gone beyond them in our march to freedom which is violent and crime free."