

NEWS HOTLINES: 08052867023, 08052867058

Troops kill 3 IPoB members, lose 1 soldier

THE NIGERIAN Army Headquarters said yesterday that troops neutralized three members of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, while one soldier was killed during a search and rescue operation for a missing soldier in the South-East.

It also warned that criminal acts of attack and abduction of service personnel remained an act against the state which will not go without consequences.

The army also denied reports that troops of the 82 Division of the Nigerian Army invaded Amangwu Community in Abia State.

It said that troops launched search and rescue operations following the abduction of a soldier, Staff Sergeant Bassey Ikunugwan, who was officially on leave pass and was abducted along Okwu-Ebem Ohafia Road in Abia State.

A statement issued by the Army Spokesman, Brigadier-General Onyema Nwachukwu, said troops acting on credible intelligence report embarked on a search and rescue operation at Amangwu Village/Forest.

"The attention of the Nigerian Army, NA, has been drawn to some publications making the rounds on social media and some mainstream media alleging that troops of the Headquarters of 82 Division, NA invaded Amangwu community in Abia State.

"Considering the weighty nature of the allegation, the Nigerian Army deems it necessary to clear the air on this atrocious incident.

"On November 2, 2022, a soldier named Staff Sergeant Bassey Ikunugwan, who was officially on leave pass was abducted along Okwu-Ebem Road in Ohafia LGA, Abia State."

"Consequently, on Thursday 3 November 2022, acting on credible intelligence report, troops embarked on a Search and Rescue Operation

at Amangwu village/forest, having confirmed same as an IPOB and Eastern Security Network, ESN, enclave, where the soldier was reportedly held hostage. During the search and rescue operations, contact was made with members of the proscribed armed groups resulting in exchange of fire", it said.

The army stated that "in continuation of the search and rescue operations, on November 4, 2022, troops deployed at Okon Aku in Abia State came in contact with members of the armed groups, during which troops neutralized one of the criminals and recovered one AK 47 rifle with a magazine loaded with seven rounds of 7.62mm (Special) and one mobile phone.

"In a follow-up operation on November 5, 2022, troops raided another enclave of the groups around Amangwu Village in Abia State. During the operation, troops neutralized two of the criminals, while some fled with gunshot wounds.

"Items recovered after the encounter include two locally fabricated AK47 rifles, four pump action guns, one locally made pistol, one sniper rifle, six magazines, 13 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO), and one motorcycle."

The statement listed other items recovered from the dissidents to include two CCTV cameras, one solar panel, flags, one walkie-talkie, two mobile phones, two pamphlets of the Biafran anthem, one INEC box, and 12 face caps.

"Others are machetes, pairs of combat boots, pairs of rain boots, camouflage uniforms, one transistor radio, two jungle hats, two knee guards, one power bank, one INEC image-capturing machine and a PVC.

"Sadly, during these engagements, one soldier paid the supreme sacrifice."