

Security agents kill IPOB/ESN enforcing sit-at-home in Enugu, Abia

THE POLICE command in Enugu has neutralised three Indigenous People of Biafra/Eastern Security Network (IPOB/ESN) hoodlums in their hideouts within Ezioha Mgbowo in the Awgu Local Government Area of the state.

Police operatives also recovered three pump-action guns, 10 machetes, and other incriminating exhibits.

The command's spokesperson, DSP Daniel Ndukwe, in a statement yesterday in Enugu, said the criminals were busted at about 2:15 a.m. on Monday.

He said they had planned to enforce the sit-at-home order when a joint security team busted their hideouts.

"A joint security team, comprising police operatives of the Enugu State Command, NPF Special Forces, and Troops of the 82 Division of the Nigerian Army Enugu, acting on credible intelligence, busted the criminal hideout of IPOB/ESN subversive criminal elements.

"The criminal elements were already perfecting plans to enforce the illegal sit-at-home order in the state.

"Three of the hoodlums, who opened fire on the joint team upon sighting them, were neutralised, while several others escaped with severe degrees of gunshot wounds in the ensuing gunfight," Mr. Ndukwe said, noting that a search had begun for the fleeing hoodlums.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, Kanayo Uzuegbu, while commending the joint team, reassured the security and safety of citizens and urged them to go

about their lawful businesses in the state.

The commissioner reiterated the avowed commitment of the police and other security forces to sustain the onslaught against unrepentant violent criminals operating under any guise.

Similarly, the Nigerian Army said troops from the 14 Brigade Ohafia have neutralised three members of the Biafran National Guards in a forest between Arochukwu and Ohafia in Abia State.

A statement by the Army said troops raided the forest at the wee hours of Monday following a credible intelligence that the forest was being used as a base by the National Guard.

The statement made available to Vanguard by the Acting Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, Lieutenant Innocent Omale said weapons including AK-47 and locally-made rocket launcher were recovered.

It read: "Troops of the Nigerian Army has made major successes in an operation that was carried out at Igboro forest a boundary between Ohafia and Arochukwu in Abia State.

"The operation was conducted by 14 Brigade Nigerian Army in the early hours of Monday 18 September 2023. On arrival at the general area based on credible, timely and reliable information, troops made contact with the Biafran National Guard, an affiliate of the Indigenous People of Biafra and they bowed to troops superior and heavy fire power hence, three of their members were neutralised, while unconfirmed number escaped with varying degrees of gunshots wounds."