

In fresh attacks, 8 police officers killed in Delta, Imo

*6 missing in action

*5 suspected assailants arrested as manhunt for killers launched

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Deployment

The FPRO said that following the sad development, the Inspector General of Police mandated the deployment of all necessary resources and personnel to apprehend those responsible for this senseless killing of our officers.

This has led to the arrest of five suspects in connection with the preceding incident and the killing, who are currently volunteering information necessary for the rounding up of all the perpetrators.

The statement reads, "The Nigerian Police force is profoundly saddened by the devastating loss of six (6) courageous officers in Delta State, who exhibited exceptional valour in the face of adversity.

"These brave officers tragically fell victim to a cowardly ambush by armed assailants while undertaking a mission to investigate the disappearance and rescue of three of their colleagues in the Ohoro Forest, Delta State, while six (6) others are currently missing-in-action.

"Our hearts extend to the families, friends, and colleagues of the fallen officers during this period of profound sorrow.

"We stand in solidarity with them, offering our deepest condolences and earnestly praying for the peaceful repose of the departed souls.

"Furthermore, the Nigeria Police Force is committed to honouring the memory of our fallen heroes by recognizing their bravery, dedication, and sacrifice.

"In accordance with this commitment, the Force will posthumously honour the slain officers for their noble service and ultimate sacrifice at the Nigeria Police Awards and Commendations Ceremony scheduled for April 5th, 2024 in Abuja.

"In response to this grievous loss, the Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun has taken decisive actions as expected.

"Additionally, the Inspector General of Police has mandated the expedited processing and payment of all entitlements due to the families of the fallen officers, aiming to alleviate any financial burdens they may encounter in this challenging time. "Similarly, immediate measures have been initiated to ensure that justice is served

swiftly and the perpetrators of this abhorrent crime are brought to justice.

"The Inspector General of Police has mandated the deployment of all necessary resources and personnel to apprehend those responsible for this senseless killing of our officers.

Decisive response

"It is paramount to underscore that contrary to perceived notions in some quarters, the Nigeria Police Force is committed to responding decisively to the loss of its officers and men as a result of the many unforeseen hazards associated with our job due to the dynamics of crimes and criminality globally.

"Recent incidents, such as the murder of SP Angbashim in Rivers State, where the perpetrators have been painstakingly traced to their hideout and decimated during the exchange of gunfire with gallant operatives of the Force is a vital pointer.

"Notable also is the swift and robust response to the attack on the Police Command Headquarters in Adamawa State where one Inspector Jacob Daniel was gruesomely murdered, which was followed by a visit to Adamawa State by the IGP, and timeous response by Mr President upon being briefed.

"Equally, efforts were intensified in that regard to seek redress and ensure sanctions for the attackers.

"The Nigeria Police Force unequivocally condemns any further assaults on Police Officers and other law enforcement personnel who selflessly dedicate themselves to safeguarding the lives and property of all citizens.

"He reiterated the NPF's dedication to upholding law and order, and urged officers to remain resolute in the discharge of their lawful duties, undeterred by such cowardly acts.

"Similarly, individuals and groups peddling unnecessary and insensitive publications being circulated in the media space are urged not to make light of this loss to the NPF but to sympathize with the police in these sorrowful times.

"The Inspector General of Police assured police officers and men, as well as the public that no effort will be spared in bringing the perpetrators of

this heinous act to justice as the killers have murdered sleep and will be tracked down to account for their reprehensible acts.

"He called upon well-meaning members of the public to collaborate with the Nigeria Police Force by providing any pertinent information that may aid in the apprehension of the perpetrators.

"Together, we will ensure that justice is served and peace and security prevail throughout the country".

Imo incident

In the Imo incident, gunmen suspected to be members of the Eastern Security Network, ESN, yesterday, killed two police officers along old Gariki Road, Okigwe council.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Henry Okoye, who confirmed the incident in a statement in Owerri, said the Commissioner of Police in the state, Aboki Danjuma, has tasked operatives to

leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the perpetrators of the dastardly act were arrested and made to face the full wrath of the law.

Narrating how it happened, Okoye said the gunmen threw dynamite at the officers while on security patrol, killing two of the officers and injuring four.

The statement read: "On receipt of the ugly incident, the CP alongside Commander Mopol 18 and 64, immediately led operatives of the Command's Special Tactical Unit to the crime scene for on-the-spot assessment and tasked the operatives to go all out in synergy with other security agencies and hunt down the hoodlums responsible for the attack.

"More so, Danjuma has mandated the Assistant Commissioner of Police in Charge of Okigwe, the DPO, and other tactical units deployed in the area to embark on visibility patrol, intelligence-led raids of criminal hideouts, and place watertight security to forestall any future occurrence.

"The CP calls on the general public particularly the residents of Okigwe who may have any useful information that may assist the Po-

INSECURITY: Please release K Bishop begs Tinubu

By Chidi Nkwopara

The President, Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, CBCN, Rev. Lucius Ugorji, has urged President Bola Tinubu to explore the civil remedy to release the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.

Ugorji made the call during the episcopal ordination of Monsignor Thomas Obiatuegwu, Auxiliary Bishop of Orlu Diocese, held at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Orlu, Imo State.

According to the cleric, releasing the embattled IPOB leader would open "the pathway to economic and security recovery of the South-East with its corollary of positive impact on the entire country."

His words: "With the spiking of kidnapping for ransom, many people were scared travelling to be here for this ordination ceremony because of insecurity, which has engulfed some communities in Orlu Diocese and beyond.

"In many parts of the South-East, insecurity has been worsened by the Monday sit-at-home order, issued by non-state actors. Unfortunately, the sit-at-home order has continued to paralyse economic and social life in the region.

"There have been repeated outcries of anguish disclosing that every Monday, businesses in the South-East lose billions of naira because of the sit-at-home order.

"Likewise, many poor families that eat from hand to mouth, go to sleep at night with empty stomachs every Monday, on account of the sit-at-home order, which compels them to stay indoors, out of fear of losing their lives or property.

"At this period of economic downturn, when most families have to struggle hard every day to survive, we request the Federal Government to seriously address the Monday sit-at-home order, which is fuelled by the continued detention of Kanu.

"The Supreme Court had on December 15, 2023, ruled that 'Even though illegalities were committed with the deployment of brutal force to invade his home after he was granted bail and the extraordinary rendition (from Kenya) into the country, there is a civil remedy.'

"We appeal to Mr. President to use his good offices to explore the 'civil remedy', in the best interest of the people of the South East, whose economic and so-