

# Panic as gunmen shoot 2 police officers, civilian in Imo

●Police accuse IPOB ●I've been receiving death threats from Simon Ekpa's group—Ohanaeze Ndigbo spokesman

By Anayo Okoli & Chinonso Alozie

**O**WERRI— Gunmen, yesterday, shot two police officers at a security checkpoint on Owerri-Okigwe road in Imo State.

Also, one other persons said to be a civilian was shot inside a house.

According to an eyewitness, who confirmed the incident, it happened at about 06:25 am at Akabo in Ikeduru council area of Imo State.

A viral video stated: "This just happened now. Unknown gunmen have shot two police officers at Akabo in Ikeduru LGA. Also, a civilian was killed."

The video showed two uniformed police officers lying helplessly on the ground and another body in a room."

Other eyewitnesses said: "Unknown gunmen in a vehicle driving roughly were shooting sporadically after killing the two police officers at a security checkpoint and also shot a man inside his house. They targeted the man and shot him."

However, residents have scampered for safety while shop owners out of fear were seen closing their shops.

## Police accuse IPOB

Reacting to the development, the Imo State Police Command has alleged that the Eastern Security Network, ESN, an armed wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, was behind the killing of the two police officers and a civilian.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Henry Okoye, disclosed this in a statement to newsmen in Owerri.

It said the command had deployed a Special Tactical Squad and equipped them with the available operational resources to apprehend the killers.

According to the command, "The Commissioner of Police, Imo State Command, CP Aboki Danjuma has deployed the Command's Special Tactical Squad and equipped them with the available operational resources and intelligence to go all out in synergy with other security agencies and clamp down on the hoodlums responsible for the unprovoked and unwarranted attack and killing of Police Mobile operatives conducting stop-and-search at Akabo in Ikeduru LGA of Imo State.

"The tragic incident was perpetrated in the early hours of 11/06/2024 by hoodlums suspected to be members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its armed affiliate Eastern Security Network (ESN) who attacked the operatives in their numbers firing sporadically. The operatives fought gallantly but unfortunately, two personnel and a civilian were fatally hit."

**I've been receiving death threats from Simon Ekpa's group—Ohanaeze Ndigbo scribe**

In a related development, National

Publicity Secretary of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Dr. Alex Ogbonnia, has raised the alarm that people who claim to be working for Simon Ekpa have been threatening to kill him.

In a statement, Ogbonnia said: "Since four days ago, my phone has been inundated with phone calls by unknown persons alleging that I want to kill Mr. Simon Ekpa and that they will kill me first, before I kill their leader, Mr. Ekpa.

"Of course, that I can or will kill Ekpa is the most ridiculous, malicious, mischievous and satanic of all the statements in this world.

"It is common knowledge that I can't kill. I am neither trained as a soldier nor as a police officer or in any paramilitary organisation with a duty to respond to threats to life and property. At my age, I cannot even kill a fly, talk more of a global

Leviathan in the person of Mr. Simon Ekpa.

"In my duty as the spokesman of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide, I cannot shirk in my duty to stand by the core Igbo interests and Ohanaeze position on any national issue.

"Undoubtedly, I expressed the view that the Igbo have become uncomfortable with the sit-at-home syndrome in the South East of Nigeria; and that the persistent sit-at-home has caused the Igbo more harm than good.

"Finally, I wish to assure our son, Mr. Simon Ekpa, that Ohanaeze Ndigbo is interested in his well-being, and cannot contemplate nor be a party to neutralizing or killing him. The mischief makers are once again at work. There is no record where an officer of Ohanaeze has ever killed or taken part in a conspiracy to kill an Igbo or any person for that matter.

"Part of our duty, as leaders, is to appeal to our sons of all persuasions that we can work together in the interest of the Igbo."

## Anambra community rejects inclusion in proposed Orlu State

By Anayo Okoli

**T**HE people of Umuze in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State have opposed the idea of being included in the proposed Orlu State, saying they are comfortable and proud to remain in Anambra State.

A statement by President General of the town, Ezekiel Iheazor, stated: "The leadership of Umuze Progressive Union has noticed with

dismay the inclusion of Umuze, the headquarters of Orumba South Local Government Area in the bill sponsored by one Michael Ugochinyere Ikeagwuonu for the proposed creation of Orlu State.

"The inclusion of Umuze in the proposed state is hereby rejected in its entirety by the good and peace-loving people of Umuze. Creation of additional state(s) from the South East geopolitical zone for the sake of equity and justice is a robust and welcome idea.

"However, the inclusion cannot