

# Wanted terrorist leader Bello Turji 'Ready To Surrender'

## • 3 IPOB/ESN kingpins, others 'killed' in Imo

By Kingsley Omonobi

**N**otorious terrorist leader, Bello Turji, who has been on Nigeria's most-wanted list for years, has reportedly expressed his willingness to surrender to authorities.

This came as three prominent figures linked to the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the Eastern Security Network (ESN) have reportedly been killed in an operation by Nigerian security forces in Imo State.

However, despite Turji's reported willingness to surrender, the Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has maintained that anybody who has engaged in killing innocent citizens must not be spared.

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa, on Friday, disclosed that notorious terrorist kingpin, Bello Turji, has declared that he was ready to surrender.

With his second in command and other lieutenants recently taken out by the military, Musa said that Turji has been forced to discard most of those under him, signalling his willingness to lay down his arms.

"But I can tell you, we have taken out his second in command, we have taken out most of his lieutenants he is forced now to release most of the people under him. I am telling you that recently he is beginning to say that he doesn't want anything, he is ready to surrender. We want to take everybody out. Anybody who has killed should go, people like him should not be allowed to stay", Musa said while appearing on a TV programme on Friday.

Meanwhile, Police operatives attached to the Imo State Police Command have neutralized six IPOB/ESN terrorists including three wanted kingpins and destroyed their camps after a raid on their hideout.

A statement by Force headquarters said the milestone was achieved in furtherance of the ongoing battle against terrorism.

It said, "On January 24,

2025, operatives from the Command's tactical Unit following credible intelligence launched a coordinated operation aimed at locating and dislodging the terrorist hideouts.

"The police operatives located the terrorists' hideout in a forest within Ihube, Okigwe LGA. Upon approach, the operatives came under heavy fire from suspected IPOB/ESN

terrorists but demonstrated exceptional courage and engaged the attackers in a fierce gun battle.

"The operation resulted in the neutralization of 6 members of the terrorist group, with 3 being ESN kingpins identified as Ifeanyi Anayo a.k.a. Zuma De Rock (28), Chukwuemeka Odionyenfe a.k.a. Nmimi (22), and Kingsley Sunday (21)—all natives of Ogube, Ihube in

Okigwe Local Government Area. "Arms and ammunition recovered from them include five AK-47 rifles, 552 rounds of live ammunition, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), many communication equipment, along with 8 operational motorcycles used by the group.

"Prior investigations had revealed the involvement of the group in several high-profile crimes, including the attack on the Owerri Correctional Center on April 5, 2021, the killing of five policemen in Umunna, Okigwe, on December 12, 2022, and the burning of Arondizuogu Police Station on February 8, 2022.

## RUMBLING IN PFN: Why Bishop Wale Oke may not be reelected

### • Archbishop Idahosa openly accuses Fellowship President of not keeping to promise ...other leaders concur

By Olalekan Bilesanmi

**T**he National President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), Archbishop Wale Oke, may not be reelected as some senior leaders of the body, among others, are accusing him of non-performance.

Oke, who was first elected into office in 2023 for a two-year term, is due for reelection in February 2025 during the biennial conference of the body.

But those who are dissatisfied with his administration say the PFN has lost the vibrancy it was noted for under the previous leadership, especially under Archbishop Benson Idahosa, Bishop Mike Okonkwo and Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, among others, and believe he should not be reelected.

PFN is the umbrella body for Pentecostal Christians in Nigeria and its members include the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) led by Pastor E.A. Adeboye, Word of Life Bible Church led by Oritsejafor, Living Faith Church (Winners Chapel) led by Archbishop

David Oyedepo, Deeper Life Church led by Rev Kumuyi, Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministries (MFM) led by Pastor Olukoya, The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM) led by Okonkwo, Church of Mission led by the late Idahosa but is now led by his widow, Margaret, Christian Pentecostal Mission (CPM) led by Rev (Mrs) Mercy Ezekiel, House on the Rock led by Pastor Paul Adefarasin, and the Sword of the Spirit led by Oke.

The Fellowship is arguably the largest Christian body in Nigeria and one of the bodies that make up the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

In fact, some analysts say 60 per cent of Nigerian Christians belong to the PFN even though CAN is made up of about five groups.

### Discontent

Discontent against the PFN leader blew open recently after one of the senior leaders of the Fellowship, Mama Margaret Idahosa, openly alleged that Oke failed to keep to promise although she said she had forgiven him.

The occasion was the

70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Oyedepo, held recently at Winners Chapel, where the Archbishop of the Church of God Mission described Oyedepo in glowing terms but ended her tribute by accusing Oke, who was seated there alongside Adeboye and wife, former President Olusegun Obasanjo, and Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State, among others, of not keeping to promise.

In concluding the tribute in which she called Oyedepo an oak tree, a big elephant and a promise keeper, having fulfilled the covenant he made with her husband about 26 years ago, Mama Idahosa said: "Happy birthday to you sir, happy birthday to you ma, and happy birthday to all of us. Baba Adeboye (RCCG General Overseer), I thank you very much. Okonkwo (TREM Archbishop), I thank you very much, and Wale Oke, I have forgiven everything because he promised me and he did not come ... but he is all under the lamb".

Many senior leaders of the PFN who spoke with Sunday Vanguard echoed the Idahosa statement, saying the PFN National Presi-

dent's promise to also keep the Fellowship vibrant had only been fulfilled in the breach.

"How much contribution of the PFN to national discourse have you heard in the last two years of the Wale Oke administration? This is a critical time in the life of Nigeria, and a crucial body like the PFN should be seen to be contributing its quota. But what have we seen?" one of the leaders said.

"When Bishop Oke took over the leadership, the PFN was vibrant. And Bishop Oke did promise to keep it vibrant as we had witnessed under Idahosa, Okonkwo, Oritsejafor.

"Today, nobody reckons with the PFN anymore because we have a leadership that is not pulling its weight. How many press statements have you seen from the PFN in two years? How many media appearances have you seen of our leadership?"

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