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1. **In 29 Months (Jan 2021-May 2023) Under Gov Hope Uzodinma In Imo: Security Forces And Allied Militias Killed 900 Unarmed Citizens, Wounded 700, Arrested 3,500, Extorted 1,400, Disappeared 300, Burned Down 1,200 Civilian Houses, Displaced Their 30,000 Owners And Forced 500,000 Citizens In Active Age-Brackets To Flee To Escape Being Shot And Killed Or Abducted And Disappeared In Security Custody**
2. **Armed Non-State Actors (Fulani Jihadists, Counterfeit Agitators, Death Squads, Street Violent Criminal Entities, Etc) Killed 700 (400 In Captivity And 300 In Open Shootings), Abducted 900**

Enugu, Eastern Nigeria:

Sunday, 21st May 2023

Executive Summary:

1,500 Of The Arrested 3,500 Citizens Still Held, 600 Killed And 1,400 Extorted And Freed

No fewer than 1,500 of the arrested 3,500 unarmed citizens in Imo State in the past 29 or January 2021 to May 2023 months are still being detained in various security, defense and policing detention facilities within and outside the State. They include those held in Imo and Abuja DSS detention facilities and other detention facilities manned by 34 Brigade, Obinze (near Owerri) and other military formations within and outside Imo (abducted and potentially disappeared), Nigeria Police Force and its crack squads' formations within and outside Imo State and the Ebubeagu Government militias (jointly perpetrated with Army and Police). Out of the detained 1,500 unarmed citizens, estimated 300 are being held under "awaiting trial" in various Correctional Centers or Prisons within and outside Imo State. The remaining 1,200 are arbitrarily held in various detention facilities manned by the above named security, defense and policing establishments including estimated 900 held within Imo and 300 others held outside the State (i.e. FCID, FCIB, Army and DSS Headquarters, etc). The remaining 1,400 of the arrested 3,500 unarmed citizens are those mindlessly extorted and freed by various detaining authorities; during which each of the freed detainees coughed out not less than N300, 000 and above to regain his or her freed.

In other words, criminal 'bail fees' imposed and forcefully collected from each of the "freed" detainees ranges from N300,000, N500, 000, N1m to N5m (as case may be). It must also be pointed out that 95% of the arrested 3,500 unarmed citizens were arrested under class criminalization and false labeling of "being seriously involved in Biafra matters". In the whole, 1,500 of the arbitrarily arrested 3,500 unarmed citizens in Imo State since Jan 2021 are still in detention, 600 killed (including 300 killed without traces or permanently disappeared in detention and 300 killed with traces in detention) and 1,400 others freed under mindless extortion. The Nigeria Police Force is the most atrocious and its crack squads involved include IRT (Intelligence Response Teams), STS (Special Tactical Squads), Anti Terrorism, Anti Kidnapping, Anti Cultism, RRS (Rapid Response Squads), SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics Teams) and the Anti Robbery Squads of the Imo State Police Command, etc

Armed State Actor Killings And Burnings Displaced 30,000 And Forced 500,000 To Flee

Imo State of Nigeria under Gov Hope Uzodinma has become the most violent and human rights abusing and violating State in Old Eastern Nigeria and one of the most violent States in the country. The State is majorly troubled by state actor driven insecurity and other unsafe conditions; directly or indirectly funded with Imo public or taxpayers' funds and perpetrated under the watch of the present Governor and Government of Imo State since January 2021. The State has become so unsafe and insecure under Hope Uzodinma as Imo Governor that from Jan 2021 to May 2023; a period of 29 months or two years and five months, the deployed security forces and allied militias have killed at least 900 defenseless and unarmed citizens, wounded 700, arrested 3500, disappeared 300, invaded 80 communities in at least 20 of the State's 27 Local Government Areas where at least 1,200 civilian houses and other properties including market stores were atrociously burned down or destroyed. The attacks by security forces and allied militias have also displaced at least 30,000 occupants or owners of the 1,200 burnt or destroyed houses. The fears generated by the egregious and grisly attacks have forced at least 500,000 defenseless citizens in productive age-brackets to flee their homes and relocate to places considered to be safer to avoid being abducted and killed in custody or shot and killed at sight; or sexually harassed or raped to death in captivity, in the case of young females.

Families No Longer Bury Their Dead In Imo

The wanton destruction of lives and properties in 29 months gone by in Imo State under Gov Hope Uzodinwa is so shocking, chilling and alarming that many families in the affected local government areas/communities no longer ancestrally give their loved ones who died naturally or unnaturally befitting burials and funerals. Natural and slain dead bodies are mostly smuggled in at nights and secretly and indecently buried, after which their funerals are held or organized outside their ancestral homes including at urban residences located in Umuahia, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Aba, Enugu, Onitsha, Nnewi and so on. The Imo Local Government Areas mostly affected or worst hit by the ongoing grisly and egregious destruction of defenseless lives and properties include Orsu, Orlu, Oru East, Oru West, Mbaitoli, Ngor-Okpala, Oguta, Ohaji/Egbema, Okigwe, Ideato North, Ideato South, Owerri Municipal, Owerri North, Owerri West, Ahiazu Mbaise, Ezinifite Mbaise, Onuimo, Njaba, Isu, Nwangele and Nkwere. Apart from mass murders, arbitrary arrests, abductions, disappearances and civilian house burnings perpetrated by security forces and allied militias using Imo taxpayers funds, armed non state actors including Fulani jihadists, counterfeit agitators, "Government Unknown Gunmen" or political death/killer squads, private armies/militias and street violent criminals have also within the period (Jan 2021-May 2023) killed at least 700 defenseless civilians and abducted 900 others.

600 Citizens Secretly Killed By Armed State Actors In Imo And 300 Died In Open Shootings

The number of unarmed and defenseless citizens secretly killed by armed state actors in Imo State in 29 months is estimated at 600, out of which, the Nigeria Police IRT's Owerri Tiger Base accounted for at least 200 deaths and its Abuja Force CIB Headquarters (Abattoir) about 150 secret deaths. The custodial secret killings are in connection with "Biafra Matters". The third most atrocious perpetrators of the secret killings in Imo are the Nigerian Army's 34 Brigade at Obinze and other formations under 82 Division, Enugu; accounting for 100 "permanent disappearances" or custodial killings. The Nigeria Police STS and RRS under Force CID, Abuja and their annexes located outside Imo State accounted for at least 100 secret killings while the Imo State Police Command's crack teams including Anti Terrorism, Anti Kidnapping, Special Weapons Tactical Squads (formerly SARS) and Anti Cultism, etc accounted for least 150 secret killings.

Out of the estimated death of 300 unarmed and defenseless citizens in open shootings and killings recorded in 29 months, soldiers of the 34 Brigade at Obinze and other military formations are jointly responsible for about 150 deaths; recorded in patrols, raiding and invasions during “joint military operations”. The various police crack squads attached to the Imo State Police Command including IRT (Intelligence Response Teams), STS (Special Tactical Squads), Anti Terrorism, Anti Kidnapping, Anti Cult, RRS (Rapid Response Squads), SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics Teams) or Anti Robbery Squads are jointly responsible for not less than 100 deaths arising from open shootings. Ebubeagu Government militias accounted for 70 open killings while remaining 30 deaths represented “dark figures of crime”.

Armed State Actors Attacked Or Razed 200 Synagogues And 300 Traditional Sanctuaries In Imo

It must be recalled that the beginning of armed state actor mass murders, abductions, arbitrary arrests, long detention without trial, class criminalization and stigmatization, disappearances and civilian house burnings in Imo State started in January 2021 with indiscriminate clamp down, false labeling and property attacks directed at residents of Orlu part of the State during which over 33 leaders/members of the African Instituted Churches branch of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) or Synagogues were arrested and their churches raided and destroyed. The Government of Imo State also responded and justified the attacks by issuing a statement through its Attorney General, accusing them of “sponsoring Unknown Gunmen and ESN/IPOB and providing spiritual backups and charms for them”.

Such despicable, condemnable and internationally prohibited class criminalization and stigmatization had arisen from unsubstantiated narratives or allegations derived from false and corrupted intelligence that *“IPOB members are faithful of Jewish Synagogues and traditional religions which provide them with bullet-proof charms when under attack, therefore, all White Garment Churches and Traditional Religious Sanctuaries belong to ESN/IPOB/Unknown Gunmen members/supporters”*. It was on the basis of such false narratives and labeling that the armed state actors adopted sundry jungle justice methods and internationally prohibited acts to unleash widespread state crimes against persons and properties of the Synagogues and the sacred traditional sanctuaries, their symbols and principal worshippers. This is to the extent that in the 29 months gone by, armed state actors have targeted and destroyed or burned down at least 300 traditional religious sanctuaries and 200 Synagogues in Imo State and their principal worshippers including prophets and oracle men killed or disappeared or incarcerated.

Class Criminalization And Reprisals Behind Mass Murders And House Burnings In Imo

Not less than 95% of the victims of mass murders, abductions, disappearances and other internationally prohibited acts in Imo under Hope Uzodinma as Governor have been identified as defenseless and unarmed, attacked and killed or abducted, tortured and permanently disappeared by the drafted security forces using internationally prohibited class criminalization and reprisals. The attacks on defenseless civilian properties leading to armed state actors’ burning down or destruction of 1,200 civilian houses are also perpetrated using class criminalization and reprisals targeted at the defenseless or uninvolved citizens. Apart from lack of professionalism, administrative and operational competence, the drafted military, police and spy police personnel specifically adopted ethnic and religious profiling as their operational modus operandi in Imo State, in addition to lopsided composition of the command and rank and file of the drafted security agencies with over 80% of their commanding officers hailed from Northern Muslim extraction and others from outside the South-East. The drafted senior Muslim security officers also see the “internal security operations in the South-East” as “a state jihad and ethnic war”. The Nigeria Police and the Army High Commands had since 2021 adopted ‘transfer of criminal responsibility’, ‘ethno-religious profiling’ and ‘class criminalization’ in Imo and the South-East. The present IGP and a former Nigerian Army Chief (Attahiru) had in 2021 charged their personnel to “take war to villages and villagers where soldiers or police personnel are attacked or killed by Unknown Gunmen in the South-East”. Since then, the security forces have turned blind eyes on armed fighting parties and turned against the defenseless and unarmed citizens in Imo State and the South-East.

Totality of the above explains why Imo State accounts for at least 60% of mass murders, abductions, disappearances and civilian house burnings in the South-East Region since January 2021, followed by the Obigbo Army massacre of Oct 2020 in Rivers State. The shot and killed unarmed and defenseless citizens and atrociously labeled civilian properties burned down or destroyed as “houses/properties” and “relatives, wives, girlfriends, parents, children, friends and supporters of Unknown Gunmen or IPOB/ESN”. Defenseless civilians also got killed and falsely labeled by armed state actors moments or hours after ‘Unknown Gunmen’ attacks or during Monday sit-at-home or major social events like Easter or Christmas and New Year and tagged “ESN/IPOB/Unknown Gunmen and their supporters”.

Instant ‘death-code’ has also been adopted by security forces against any unarmed citizen or group of unarmed citizens seen wearing or holding any shirt or insignia with combined colors bearing black and red or with rising sun symbols. Soldiers of the 34 Brigade, Obinze have severally been accused in recent times of late night blockage of Onitsha-Owerri Road at Mgbidi and Owerri-Elele Road axis during which commercial buses loaded with passengers are flagged down and commanded to offload their passengers for point-blank physical checks-resulting in those with tattoos and stylish hair-cuts or gymnastic body building being rounded up and bundled away to unknown destinations; thereby putting them at high risk of disappearing without traces or not returning to their families or homes alive. Imo State Government Ebubeagu militias also indiscriminately mount late evening and early morning roadblocks during which defenseless citizens in their large numbers risk being abducted and secretly shot and killed and their bodies disappeared.

13 Of Every 15 Openly Killed In Imo Are Unarmed And 15 Of Every 15 Secretly Killed Are Unarmed

The armed state actors’ attacks on defenseless and unarmed citizens in Imo State using state taxpayers’ funds have been critically examined and findings made clearly showed that: ***“out of every 15 citizens accused of being “seriously involved in Biafra Matters”, 14 are innocent; out of every 15 arbitrarily arrested and detained without trial in connection with “Biafra Matters”, 13 are innocent arbitrarily arrested and detained-with the remaining two ought not to have been held arbitrarily without trial; out of every 15 persons killed in the open by soldiers or police crack squads in connection with “Biafra Matters”, 13 are defenseless and unarmed; out of every 15 tortured/starved to death or shot and killed in detention in connection with “Biafra Matters”, the same number are defenseless and unarmed; out of every 15 abducted outside their family knowledge and official records by soldiers in connection with “Biafra Matters”, 14 are not likely to come back alive; and if arrested/abducted by DSS or Police crack squads, seven run the high risk of being tortured and killed in custody and only eight have chances of coming back alive by ‘buying’ their freedom from detaining authorities; out of every 15 arrested by the drafted military personnel including soldiers and principal officers of 34 Brigade, Obinze (Imo), 14 Brigade, Ohafia (Abia) and 302 Artillery, Onitsha, Anambra (under interstate joint patrols), six run the risk of not returning to their families alive; out of every 15 houses or homes burned down or destroyed by the drafted security forces, same 15 houses belong to defenseless citizens without any link to ‘military necessity’.***

700 Civilians Killed By Armed Non State Actors In Imo And 900 Others Abducted Since Jan 2021

The armed non state actor entities in Imo State have since January 2021 killed at least 700 defenseless citizens and abducted 900 others; out of which 400 were killed in captivity and 300 died in open shootings that occurred in different parts of Imo State. Just as the dreaded Ebubeagu militias partook in the armed state actor killing of 900, abduction/arrest of 3500 and disappearance of 300; the dreaded militias also took a lion’s share alongside political death/killer squads and armed counterfeit agitators in the open shootings and killings that claimed the lives of 300 defenseless citizens in Imo State; jointly accounting for 250 deaths.

The non Islamic kidnappers-for-ransom, the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, the armed political opposition reprisal squads and other members of the armed street criminal entities took responsibility for the remaining 50 deaths. Out of the 400 defenseless deaths arising from captivity shootings and killings including abducted citizens shot or tortured to death in captivity, kidnappers-for-ransom (including armed counterfeit agitators) accounted for 200 deaths, followed by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen with 100 deaths. The responsibility for the remaining 100 deaths in captivity is shared by Ebubeagu militias, political death/killer squads, kidnap-for-ransom members of armed street criminal entities and operatives of the Eastern Security Network (collateral civilian deaths recorded in January to December 2021).

It must be noted that under the International Law's best practices, casualties that occurred between fighting parties or between security forces and armed opposition fighting parties are not recorded or counted. It is also internationally prohibited to attack, destroy or burn down houses and other properties including sacred places of worship and their religious symbols which do not constitute 'military necessity'.

Armed Non State Actors Abducted 900 Civilians In 29 Months And Killed 300 In Captivity

It is the finding of the **International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety)** that not less than 900 defenseless citizens were abducted by five of the eight identified armed non state entities in Imo State in 29 months (Jan 2021-May 2023), out of which 33% or 300 were killed in captivity; representing those that could not return to their families alive after being abducted. Out of the 900 abductions, political killer squads ("Government Unknown Gunmen"), Ebubeagu Government militias and counterfeit agitators accounted for 400, kidnapers-for-ransom members of the 'street violent criminal entities and private armies accounted for 300 and the jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and others 200.

The 300 victims of the abductors' captivity killings represent those unable to return to their families alive or presumed to have been killed in captivity owing to their inability to pay ransoms or who died from torture or gunshot injuries or because of their refusal to be raped, if females; or recite Islamic incantations and be converted to Islam, if abducted on religious grounds. Greater number of victims of political abductions also died in captivity after being abducted. Some victims of the 900 abductions who managed to return home alive died afterwards as a result of terminal injuries inflicted or complicated health issues arising from their abductions by five out of named eight armed non state actor entities in Imo.

Calling For International Criminal Enquiries And Indictments In Imo State

The leadership of the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety), Nigeria's leading human rights, rule of law and democracy research and investigative Organization, is strongly calling for international criminal enquiries and indictments in Imo State. The criminal enquiries under demand are extremely necessary for purpose of unmasking the identities of those that killed, abducted, disappeared, arbitrarily arrested/detained and tortured; those that aided, abetted and omitted to act to stop the killings, abductions, disappearances and torture; those that were killed, abducted, tortured and disappeared.

To be forensically unmasked too are: when, where, how the killings, abductions, arbitrary arrests, detentions, torture and disappearances took place and why. These are in addition to: identification of: the type, location and number of houses and other properties burned down or destroyed and those responsible for burning or destroying them and why they were burned or destroyed (domicide) and identification of the available legal frameworks and rules of engagement disapproving and sanctioning such heinous acts or conducts.

Apart from criminal enquiries, indictments and prosecutions being demanded, the leading perpetrators listed in the Page 33 (last page) of this Special Research and Investigative Report shall be placed on visa bans and barred from all forms of international career, professional and private engagements especially in USA, Canada, Australia, UK, EU, France, Germany, and South-East Asia and so on; for their involvement in grisly and egregious rights abuses and violations in Imo State in particular and the South-East in general.

It is therefore on account of the above that we are strongly and specifically calling on Chief Prosecutor of the ICC, Hon Karim A.A. Khan (UK), President of ICC, Judge Piotr Hofmanski (Poland), First Vice-President of ICC, Judge Luz Del Carmen Ibanez Carranza and Second Vice-President of ICC, Judge Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua to intervene in Nigeria's Imo State and its South-East Region. Our calling on the ICC to intervene is grounded in Nigeria being signatory to the ICC Statute (signed and ratified in Sept 2001) and the country's loss of its international right and obligation to investigate, prosecute and judicially convict the perpetrators in the Imo mass murders, civilian house burnings and other internationally prohibited acts or conducts; in line with **the International Law's Principles of Complementarity and Zero Impunity.**

Nigeria's Intersociety is also calling on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland and New York, USA to intervene by launching joint or separate investigations through the UNHCR's Special Rapporteurs generally charged with responsibilities of holding enquiries into grisly and egregious human rights abuses and violations, such as in the case of Imo State. The current United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is Mr. Volker Turk of Austria.

The UN Rights Special Rapporteurs being called upon are the **Special Rapporteur on Summary, Arbitrary and Extrajudicial Executions or Killings**, the **Special Rapporteur on Arbitrary Detention**, the **Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Inhuman or Degrading Treatments or Punishments**, the **Special Rapporteur on Environment and Human Rights**, the **Special Rapporteur on UN Committee on Involuntary or Enforced Disappearances** and the **Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing** (anti domicile). **'Domicide'** is the massive and arbitrary destruction of civilian houses or homes in a situation of turbulent democracy or violent conflict. The International Law outlaws all forms of arbitrary housing destruction.

Intersociety is also drawing the attention of the International Secretariat of **the Amnesty International** headed by Dr Agnes Callamard (respected former UN Special Rapporteur on Summary, Arbitrary and Extrajudicial Killings or Executions) as well as the Executive Director of the US respected **Human Rights Watch**, Mr. Kenneth Roth, etc; calling on them to use their good offices to cause their respected and respective global Rights Organizations to focus their advocacy attentions on Imo and South-East. Called upon to take this research and investigative report of ours to next critical level are other apostles and disciples of justice including human rights and democracy leaders within and beyond Imo State and the South-East.

Not exempted are the unbiased political actors and other critical stakeholders in Imo State and the South-East. The Imo mass murders, civilian house burnings and other internationally prohibited acts have been perpetrated with rapacious impunity and recklessness; to the extent that till date, not even a single armed state actor or armed non state actor perpetrator; or a public official or office holder aider and abettor has been brought to accountability including being investigated, tried, convicted and jailed. The sum-total of the above has institutionalized impunity and 'repeat-offenses' in Imo State and the South-East. **End Of Executive Summary**

Research Background:

The Jan 2020 Controversial Supreme Court Verdict As Forbearer Of Imo Mass Atrocities

It is remembered that Imo State of Nigeria was thrown into political instability and socio-economic deterioration including citizens' gross insecurity and other unsafe conditions; leading to the State becoming a killing field and South-East capital of political banditry since January 2021 or a period of 29 months (Jan 2021-May 2023). The above was as a result of the controversial judgment by the Supreme Court of Nigeria on 14th Jan 2020 that installed the present Governor and Government of Imo State after awarding victory to a fourth place finisher in the March 2019 Imo Governorship Poll by upholding controversial results from 388 polling units never captured or reflected in the INEC's official records. The controversial Supreme Court judgment had come after a controversial Catholic Priest was presidentially contracted to make an immoral pronouncement: "I see hope coming to Imo State".

The Nigeria's Supreme Court was also strongly suspected to have usurped the functions of INEC by awarding vote figures that never existed. Totality of the above remotely marked the beginning of mass murders and civilian house burnings in Imo which started in January 2021. The sum-total of the above further resulted to issuance of threats and counter threats between the Government of Imo State under Hope Uzodinma and the deployed security agencies (Army, Police and DSS) on one hand and the leadership of the Indigenous People of Biafra on the other hand. The IPOB leadership had responded to the controversial judgment of the Supreme Court on Imo by accusing Gov Hope Uzodinma of "being planted and imposed on Imo People by the ruling Fulani Caliphate to supervise destruction and Islamization of Imo State and the South-East".

The Government of Imo State under Hope Uzodinma responded intolerably by unleashing full scale state coercive violence against residents of the State use class criminalization and false labeling. The Government of the State and the drafted security forces also engaged in indiscriminate and arbitrary arrest and detention of unarmed citizens without trial; killings, abductions and disappearances and burning down or destruction of civilian homes; targeted at members of the African Instituted Churches branch of the Christian Association of Nigeria and their sacred sanctuaries as well as sanctuaries and principal worshippers of the Traditional Religions in Orlu and environs. The Imo State Government and the drafted security forces' attacks started in January 2021 at Orlu.

3,500 Unarmed Citizens Arrested By Security Forces, 1,400 Freed And 300 Disappeared

Estimated total of 3,500 unarmed citizens were arrested in Imo State by armed state actors in 29 months or Jan 2021-May 2023; out of which, 1,400 were extorted and freed and 17% or 300 disappeared without traces or most likely killed in security detention facilities. The 300 disappeared unarmed citizens also form half of those (600) killed secretly by armed state actors in various detention facilities located within and outside Imo State. The various crack squads of the Nigeria Police including IRT (Intelligence Response Teams), STS (Special Tactical Squads), Anti Terrorism, Anti Kidnapping, Anti Cultism, RRS (Rapid Response Squads), SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics Teams), Imo Police SARS, etc accounted for 1,500 arrests, followed by the military (Army, Air Force and Navy) with 800 arrests, DSS 700 arrests and Government of Imo State funded Ebubeagu militias 500 arrests. Also, out of the arrested 3,500 unarmed citizens, not less than 1000 were transferred out of the State by FCIB, FCID, Army and DSS and labeled "seriously involved in Biafra matters". Out of this number, not less than 300 are believed or suspected to have been tortured or starved to death or shot and killed in detention. 'Disappeared Persons' are those secretly arrested or abducted outside the knowledge of their families or without official records stating their names, time and place of arrest, security department and personnel that arrested them, where they were taken to or held, reasons for their arrest and whether they were being held dead or alive. It must be reminded that the present Government of Imo State had on 24th May 2021 disclosed that "over 400 people have been arrested for security threats in Imo".

Identifying Armed State Actors Killing Unarmed Civilians And Burning Houses In Imo

Detailed investigations by Intersociety on state actor perpetrators involved have identified soldiers and principal officers of the Obinze 34 Brigade (near Owerri) of the Nigerian Army under Enugu 82 Division as the most atrocious; joined in inter-state joint operations by soldiers and principal officers of 14 Brigade, Ohafia in Abia and 302 Artillery Regiment, Onitsha in Anambra as well as the personnel of the Nigerian Air Force Squadron in Owerri and the Nigerian Navy School of Finance and Logistics, Owerre-Nta in Abia State. The personnel of the 34 Brigade (Obinze) and their Brigade Commanders since Jan 2021 have specialized in open killings and abductions, torture and disappearances.

The Nigeria Police's IRT (Intelligence Response Teams), STS (Special Tactical Squads), Anti Terrorism, Anti Kidnapping, Anti Cultism, RRS (Rapid Response Squads), SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics Teams) and Anti Robbery Squads of the Imo State Police Command are the second most atrocious who indiscriminately and wantonly engage in shooting and killing or terminally injuring of unarmed citizens in their hundreds especially after attacks by armed non state actors or during raids and invasions using biased and corrupted intelligence. Those arrested alive and unarmed and detained by the above named police crack squads are routinely subjected to torture and other inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments during which dozens get killed and their bodies disposed and dumped in secret mass graves to erase traces.

The Department of the State Security Service or DSS was also identified as being very notorious when it comes to secret raiding and abduction of unarmed civilians in their sleep and in hundreds and their arbitrary detention without trial. Those arrested unarmed citizens by the DSS are routinely tortured and detained under excruciating conditions without trial during which scores risk death from torture and starvation. The Imo DSS and its national headquarters also arrest unarmed citizens and take them away without the knowledge of their families and deny or block them access to their doctors and lawyers. The Imo mass murders, abductions and disappearances are also found to have been coordinated by the Imo formations and Abuja national headquarters of the Nigeria Police Force and its various crack squads, the DSS and the Nigerian Army including Defense/Army Headquarters.

This is to the extent that not less than 1000 of the 3,500 unarmed and defenseless citizens arrested in the State were moved out of the State and detained at Nigeria Police (FCID, FCIB, etc, Army and DSS headquarters in Abuja where not less than 250 are strongly suspected to have been secretly tortured to death or killed in custody. In the case of the Nigerian Army, many, if not most of those abducted during its "Joint Military Operations" (with other military personnel) have not been traced or located alive. Few who managed to survive are those that have relatives or friends that are well connected in military circles or capable of bribing their way through.

Contextual Definition Of Armed State Actors Involved

For purpose of this special research and investigative Report, 'security forces and allied militias' include any armed squad being directly or indirectly maintained or funded using federal and sub-national (state) taxpayers funds including "Presidential or Governor's monthly security votes". Included in this category are the Government of Imo State funded "Ebubeagu militias" and other clandestinely raised and funded 'political death squads-generally referred as "Government Unknown Gunmen in Imo". **Intersociety** has identified the above named armed state actors and their allies to be directly or indirectly Government funded. They have also been responsible for killings, abductions, torture and maiming, arbitrary arrests, disappearances and civilian house burnings in Imo State. Also, by omission, failure, refusal, unwillingness and inability to act, Gov Hope Uzodinma strongly has a case to answer and is complicit.

Instruments Of Death And Destruction Used In Imo Mass Murders And House Burnings

Weapons used in perpetrating the ongoing mass murders and civilian house burnings in Imo State since Jan 2021 are classified under “licit and illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons”. Licit small arms and light weapons are also called “state weapons or coercive instruments”. Their being licit is because of their approval for use by state actors. The above identified ‘licit small arms and light weapons have been investigated and found to have been used wrongly and atrociously on wrong environment, population and properties (i.e. unarmed and defenseless citizens, their properties and non war but turbulent environment). Also deployed and unlawfully used by armed state actors are “military armaments (i.e. military jets, armored tanks and their war-grade weapons)”. Licit small arms and light weapons used include automatic rifles, machine guns, improvised explosive devices, lethal substances including raw acids (prohibited); hand grenades, petrol bombs (prohibited) and other instruments of death. Imo State is also gripped by the proliferation of ‘illicit small arms and light weapons’; mostly in wrong hands and used by the eight identified armed non state actor entities in the State. These weapons are illicit because of their unapproved or unofficial channels of movement and usage. Key among them are the officially prohibited automatic rifles, sub machine guns, petrol bombs and un-prohibited pump action and double barreled guns, machetes, etc. These weapons also have high influx and transited through unofficial (illicit) channels.

Armed State Actor Detention Facilities In Imo Military Most Congested In The East

Intersociety’s researchers and investigators have identified Imo State as the State with most congested Army, Police and DSS detention facilities in the East and one of the most congested in Nigeria. The detention facilities in Imo are so congested that several arrested unarmed citizens are killed in droves in the hours of the blue law so as to “decongest cells and find more spaces for new intakes”. Detainees are also transferred out of the State in their large numbers and dumped in detention facilities in neighboring States or at various Police crack squads formations or DSS detention facilities in Abuja and environs including Nasarrawa, Kogi and Niger States where several of them are secretly held sometimes alongside dreaded Jihadist Boko Haram/ISWAP suspects. In September 2022 when our fact-finders visited the Owerri Directorate of the DSS, it was found that some administrative spaces have been converted to detention facilities owing to high number of the arrested citizens.

Some relatives of the suspects being held had told **Intersociety** that their missing loved ones were picked up or abducted by the joint patrol teams of soldiers, police and spy police while going to farms or market; or attending or returning from social functions including burial/funeral or marriage ceremonies or meetings, sporting events, etc during which they were instantly labeled “IPOB members or Unknown Gunmen/relatives and friends of Unknown Gunmen/ESN”. At Nigeria Police’s IRT’s Tiger Base in Owerri, **Intersociety** was told by some freed detainess that not only that their female and male cells are congested but also administrative spaces are converted to detention centers. This is to the extent dozens are routinely killed at mid night to “decongest the cells”. By our investigative findings, between Feb and April 2021, not less than 60 detainees were secretly executed at the Nigeria Police IRT’s Tiger Base in Owerri after they were arrested unarmed and taken into detention and labeled “IPOB/ESN members or relatives/sympathizers of IPOB/ESN”.

N20B-N30B Imo Gov’s Security Votes In 29 Months Likely To Have Aided Armed State Actor Atrocities

The armed state actor mass murders, abductions, disappearances and house burnings, etc in Imo State in 29 months or Jan 2021 to May 2023 are likely to have aided by the expenditure of whopping N20b-N30b Imo Governor’s monthly security votes leading to killing of at least 900 unarmed citizens, wounding of 700, arbitrary arrest of 3500, disappearance of 300, invasion of 80 communities in at least 20 of the State’s 27 Local Government Areas and burning down or destruction of at 1,200 civilian homes. The attacks also forced at least 30,000 citizens into displacement and 500,000 members of the active population to flee. The fleeing of 500,000 productive age citizens followed fears generated.

The internationally prohibited conducts in Imo State were perpetrated through the instrumentality of the “Imo State Security Council” chaired by Gov Hope Uzodinma and operationally under the “Imo Joint Security Taskforce” coordinated by the State Commissioner of Police and the Brigade Commander of the 34 Brigade of the Nigerian Army at Obinze, near Owerri. The Gov of Imo State is presently projected to be collecting N700m-N1b monthly as “security votes”-translating to N20b in 29 months or N29b (or N30b). The figure is likely to be higher going by the unfolding realities on the ground. That is to say that the huge public funds above was directly or indirectly used to aid or facilitate the massacre, house burnings and other internationally prohibited acts or conducts. Identified in the course of this Special Research and Investigative Report is state actor created insecurity and other unsafe conditions used by subversive Government functionaries as a conduit pipe to fleece public funds, increase public spending and divert public funds under the decoy of “insecurity”.

Government-Linked Private Armies Letting Loose On Anambra, Imo, Others

The state actor created insecurity includes arming and funding violent persons or groups with Small Arms and Light Weapons to create general atmosphere of insecurity and fears in the run-up to elections and subversive militancy such as running “lucrative” kidnap-for-ransom cartels or Government-linked private armies using Government connections and machineries; perpetrated by some top Government functionaries. Clear cases in point are Anambra and Imo States. Anambra is now home to private armies secretly linked to a number of subversive persons-with some presently serving as “key Government functionaries”. The private armies in the State include those engaging in high profile ‘kidnap-for-ransom’ organized crime syndicates specialized in high profile kidnap-for-ransom operations between Awka, Achalla, Onitsha and Ogbaru Niger River creeks using automatic rifles and flying boats with the State security hierarchies including personnel of the Nigerian Naval Base turning blind eyes or working in complicity with their perpetrators and masterminds. There is also ‘industrial scale’ secret crude oil mining in Ogbaru, running by a Caliphate cabal outside the official knowledge and involvement of the Government of Anambra State. The secret oil field is heavily manned by secretly drafted military personnel, numbering several dozens using river boundaries of Anambra, Imo and Rivers as their illicit or backyard channels.

How Armed State Actors Framed Unarmed Citizens And Their Properties For Attack In Imo

Ethno-religious profiling, class criminalization and false labeling by the drafted security agents and their chiefs in Imo State have led to almost a thousand unarmed and defenseless citizens being sent to their early graves since January 2021. Billions of naira worth of properties belonging to defenseless Imo citizens including dwelling houses, trading stores stocked with goods, automobiles and religious sanctuaries have also been wantonly destroyed by the drafted security forces. This, they have done by framing, criminalizing and falsely labeling the destroyed properties as “houses/properties belonging to members/supporters/sponsors of IPOB/ESN/Unknown Gunmen in Imo State”.

The above highlighted are to the extent that not less than 90% of official or public statements by the authorities of the Nigerian Military and the Nigeria Police on insecurity or “Biafra Matters” in Imo State are highly questionable. The armed state actor security intelligence reports are also found to be highly biased and corrupted. Enough pieces of evidence abound indicating more than 90% concentration and channelization of energies and resources by armed state actors on “Biafra Matters”. The above has grossly exposed biases in the handling styles of the security forces in Imo whereby they turn blind eyes on real security challenges especially jihadist terror attacks by Fulani Herdsmen including kidnappings, killings, sexual violence and wanton destruction of properties. The drafted security forces have also been severally accused of aiding troubling violent street criminal activities in Imo and the South-East especially kidnapping-for-ransom and highway robberies.

This is to the extent that as far as the drafted security forces and their authorities are concerned, “the only violent crime in Imo and the South-East is Biafra Matters”; which explains why there are no verifiable security records anywhere in Imo or South-East showing the number of arrested and prosecuted Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen for killing and abducting defenseless citizens especially between Jan 2021 and May 2023. Drafted security forces’ class criminalization, false labeling and stigmatization of unarmed and defenseless Imo citizens or residents include tagging them “IPOB/ESN/Unknown Gunmen/sympathizers” and clamping down and cracking down the unarmed and defenseless citizens of Igbo Judeo-Christian extraction.

Residences and communities and other social settings including sporting, funeral, Christian night vigil and funeral wake-keep, cultural and meeting arenas and palaces of traditional rulers and church compounds have severally come under invasions or raids by security forces. Attendants of such social functions are arrested en masse and tagged “IPOB/ESN/Unknown Gunmen/supporters/sponsors”. Scores of them killed or wounded during such invasions or raids or shot and killed after attacks by armed non state actors; are on several occasions costumed including hanging around their bodies or necks Biafra flags/cloths/bangles, etc. Un-prohibited firearms such as single/double barrel and pump action guns, cutlasses, fake charms and military and police camouflages are usually placed on top of their dead bodies, so as to falsely portray them publicly as “ESN/IPOB/Unknown Gunmen killed in gun duel”.

Imo Is Home To Eight Violent Non State Actor Entities Since January 2021

Imo State since January 2021 is home to not less than eight armed or violent non state actor entities, out of which seven lead the way in ongoing terrorization of defenseless citizens and their properties in the State. It has also been investigated by **Intersociety** and found that five out of the eight carry out their atrocities indirectly under the watch and protection of the drafted security forces and Government of Imo State. Names of the eight armed non state actor entities in the State are: (1) “Government Unknown Gunmen (political death/killer squads allied with Ebubeagu militias and armed counterfeit agitators)”, (2) “Unknown Gunmen (including armed political opposition reprisal groups)”, (3) “Ebubeagu Militias”, (4) Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, (5) “Eastern Security Network”, (6) “Armed Counterfeit Biafra Agitators”, (7) Private Armies (arising from violent private individuals counterfeiting the Biafra Agitation) and (8) “Violent Street Criminal Entities (.i.e. armed robbers, kidnappers-for-ransom, illegal oil and solid mineral mining syndicates, etc)”. “Government Unknown Gunmen” also involve in electioneering insecurity and other unsafe conditions and running ‘lucrative’ kidnap-for-ransom cartels using Government machineries.

Out of these eight, three: Ebubeagu militias, political death/killer squads (“Government Unknown Gunmen”) and armed counterfeit agitators are suspected to be remotely linked to the drafted security forces and directly or indirect funded by the Government of Imo State through Imo Gov’s monthly security votes. The three are also the most atrocious; accounting for over 50% of the armed non state actor atrocities in the State. Kidnappers-for-ransom and jihadist Fulani Herdsmen came second with 20% accountability, members of the armed street criminal entities (armed robbers, cybercriminals, etc) 15% responsibility, Private Armies 10% and the Eastern Security Network 5% (.i.e. being collateral civilian deaths that occurred during the group’s armed confrontations with security forces between Jan and Dec 2021). Atrocity and other prohibited conduct linkages also exist between Ebubeagu militias, political death squads and counterfeit agitators and the drafted security forces especially soldiers of the Nigerian Army. Documented pieces of evidence abound exposing several atrocities of the deadly Government militias (Ebubeagu) jointly perpetrated with the drafted soldiers in Imo State.

“Esprit du Jihad” is strongly suspected to be common between the drafted soldiers and jihadist Fulani Herdsmen. The Government of Imo State funded Ebubeagu militias have also been identified as “buffer and impunity channel providers” for the political death/killer squads (“Government Unknown Gunmen”) and armed counterfeit agitators including serving as lead-coordinator of their atrocities such as massacring and abducting unarmed citizens and burning down or destruction of civilian houses and other properties especially those belonging to defenseless citizens and opponents of the Government of Imo State. A clear case in point were arsonist attacks on ancestral houses and properties of a PDP House of Rep-Elect for Ideato Federal Constituency, Barr Ugochinyere Ikenga Imo at his home Akokwa hometown in 2022.

In the whole, this research work has identified Ebubeagu militias, political death/killer squads (“Government Unknown Gunmen”) and armed counterfeit agitators as the most deadly armed non state actor entities in Imo, followed by kidnappers-for-ransom (drawn from street violent criminal entities, jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and counterfeit Biafra agitators), the jihadist Fulani Herdsmen (Nigerian Government aided and protected radical propagators of Islamism) and private armies/militias. The Unknown Gunmen including armed political opposition reprisal groups and other members of armed street criminal entities including armed robbers and cybercrime criminals are the third most deadly in Imo since January 2021. The Eastern Security Network (ESN), an armed self defense outfit, has been identified in this special research report as the least most deadly entity in Imo State after being fingered in January to December 2021 attacks on Government facilities and security personnel which drastically declined since 2022. IPOB members or activists are found in this special research report not to be carrying arms and not one of the armed non state actor entities terrorizing defenseless citizens and their properties in Imo State.

Kidnap-for-Religion, Kidnap-for-Ransom And Kidnap-for-Politics Identified In Imo

Intersociety had in the course of this special research report, identified three types of kidnappings in Imo State since January 2021. These three include: *kidnap-for-ransom*, *kidnap-for-politics* and *kidnap-for-religion*. The three kidnapping types also majorly share two kidnap traits of ‘killing in captivity and collection of huge ransoms’. Out of the three, Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen operating majorly around Akokwa-Arondizogu-Okigwe-Uturu axis and Imo part of the South-East Triangle at Umunneochi, etc are responsible for ‘kidnap-for-religion’; combined with ‘kidnap-for-ransom’. Eyewitness accounts from freed abductors showed that in the past 29 months, not less than 100 abductees were killed in captivity by Jihadist Fulani abductors after which their dead bodies were dumped to decompose without traces by their families or retrieved by security agencies.

A freed youth leader had sometime in 2022, told the media that “he was forced to trek alongside other abductees for days in those areas of Imo into Anambra, Delta and Enugu States and they saw dozens of dead bodies at various stages of decomposition as they move”. In May/June 2022, an Aguata-Anambra born university teacher who was abducted and freed days later after payment of millions of naira ransom to Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen also narrated how “they were forced to see heaps of dead bodies near a heap of firewood in the bush as example of what would befall them if they fail to pay huge ransoms demanded”.

Those involved in ‘kidnap-for-politics’ are political death/killer squads or “Government Unknown Gunmen” and the Ebubeagu Government militias funded by the present Government of Imo State. Also in this category are ‘armed counterfeit agitators’, suspected to have been clandestinely raised by subversive federal and sub-national Governments’ political and coercive agents to counterfeit or doctor the activities of the mainstream Biafra agitators and their anti Jihad self defense outfit or ESN for purpose of their class criminalization and international false labeling. The three deadly armed groups above often connive with local communities’ vigilantes to engage in ‘kidnap-for-ransom’.

Under this category too are members of Private Armies/Militias who separated from Ebubeagu or mainstream or counterfeit agitators to become “masters of their own” including running kidnapping-for-ransom racketeering Perpetrators of ‘economic/Kidnap-for-ransom’ are majorly drawn from cybercrime syndicates and property armed robbers belonging to “street violent criminal entities”. Other victims of captivity killings are those seized in their homes and killed in assassination operations or taken away in their automobiles after which they are shot and killed on the roads and dumped by the roadsides or bushes and forests.

Legal Frameworks And Int’l Best Practices In Gross Breach In Imo

This section highlights the importance of legal frameworks and international best practices in the administrative and operational conducts of the drafted security agencies and their commanders in Imo State and the South-East. Legal frameworks and international best practices are an integral part of the codes of conducts and regulations guiding the security agencies’ handling styles in their “internal security operations” in Imo State and the South-East since January 2021. These legal frameworks include rules and regulations under which the drafted security operatives and their commanders must operate or conduct their operations especially with regard to policing and processing unarmed and defenseless citizens and their properties under democratic turbulent or expressive democratic environments. These frameworks include definition and categorization of offenses and their offenders and processes of investigation, prosecution and punishment involving armed opposition fighting parties and unarmed and defenseless citizens and civilian properties. The legal frameworks and international best practices are put in place to regulate state coercive open and custodial treatments of citizens rightly or wrongly accused of being in conflict with the criminal law.

Criminal laws in the Nigeria’s body of laws are divided into ‘simple offenses (including strict and statutory liability offenses guiding traffic and public decency conducts)’, ‘misdemeanors’ and ‘felonies’. The three are further divided into different punishment categories including simple offenses which are those offenses that attract maximum of six months imprisonment, misdemeanors which attract minimum of six months and maximum of three years imprisonment and the offenses of felony which carry heavier penalties and attract minimum of three years imprisonment and maximum of life imprisonment or death sentence. For purposes of lower and heavier felonious punishments, “low felony” is punishable by three years to fourteen years imprisonment or more while “high felony” includes treason and treasonable offenses with life imprisonment or death sentence.

Offenses are also internationally categorized under “mala in se and mala prohibita”-representing crimes with universal application such as armed robbery, murder, rape, arson, burglary, arms trafficking and trafficking in persons, war crimes and crimes against humanity and other internationally prohibited conducts. Offenses of “mala prohibita” are those offenses that are defined and criminalized according to a given society. The Nigerian criminal offenses are generally defined, categorized and processed using the 1999 Constitution, the acceded or signed, ratified or domesticated regional and international human rights and humanitarian treaty laws. Others are the international criminal and procedural laws, the Criminal Code Act (for Southern Nigeria) and the Penal Code Act (for Northern Nigeria) and the Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015 (formerly the Criminal Procedure Act for the Southern Nigeria and the Penal Criminal Procedure Code for the Northern Nigeria). Included are the Practice Directions of State High Courts, Federal High Courts, FCT High Courts, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Nigeria. The management of intrastate and interstate violent conflicts at international scenes is regulated by the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their 1976/7 Protocols. The Geneva Conventions or “Laws of the International Armed Conflicts” are built on three war principles of “Jus In Bellum”, “Jus Ad Bellum” and “Jus Post Bellum”. The roles of security forces including the police and the military in the management of turbulent environments and democratic free speeches like protests, speeches, rallies, sit-at-homes, picketing, etc) are clearly outlined in the Ten Basic Principles of the International Law.

Total Collapse Of Policing Intelligence And Investigation In Imo

Criminal intelligence and investigation are facing total collapse in Imo State in particular and the South-East and Nigeria in general. Their collapse is the driving force behind mass murders and widespread property violence in the State since January 2021. There is also unchecked crossing of 'inter-agency lines of responsibility'-whereby the Army and other branches of the Nigerian Military and the DSS have abandoned their core establishment mandates and ethical codes to usurp the duties of the Nigeria Police Force. The Nigerian Army-led Military formations and their authorities in Imo State and the South-East, as a matter of fact, have become "a jungle justice police investigator; a jungle justice prosecutor, a jungle justice trial Judge and a jungle justice executioner". Despite being incurably limited by law including lacking power of detention, investigation and prosecution of "civilians or citizens not covered by the Armed Forces Act of 2004", the Nigerian Military have since 2015 become an outlaw and a leading perpetrator in the South-East killing fields in Imo State since January 2021.

Policing criminal intelligence and investigation have so collapsed in Imo State and the South-East that the drafted security agencies have adopted sundry jungle justice methods as their modus operandi. The adopted jungle justice methods include rumor mongering, hearsay, ethnic profiling, class criminalization, false labeling, ethno-cultural hatred/violence, stigmatization, use of torture and deadly force, sexual violence, personal biases and grudges for extracting confessional statements from the arrested persons. Conclusions based on hearsay, lack of requisite intelligence and investigative knowledge including 'man-mental-machine' skills for intelligence and investigation have become the trademarks of the drafted security agencies and their authorities in the South-East. Unarmed citizens are also indiscriminately arrested and detained for months before being suspected and investigated. Presently, the Nigeria Police Forensic Department and its crime libraries and laboratories including "Police Central Crime Database" are nothing to write home about and in total mess.

Apart from publicly available 'electronic tracking devices', the formations and personnel of the Nigerian Military, the Nigeria Police Force and the DSS are fundamentally lacking modern tools and expert personnel in 'detective, preventive, proactive and protective policing. Despite vast powers granted to the Nigeria Police Force by Section 4 of the Nigeria Police Force and Regulations Act of 2004, the NPF has failed woefully and earned notoriety in corruption, immorality, barbaric and Stone Age policing. Totality of the above has given rise to the incessancy of 'extra jus, extrajudicial, extra-legal and unlawful killings and executions; in addition to unchecked abductions, disappearances and wanton destruction of houses and other properties in Imo State and the South-East States since January 2021.

Jungle Justice Replaced Modern Tools And Skills Of Criminal Investigations In Imo

By Law, the Nigeria Police Force is granted wide powers in matters of criminal suspicion, investigation, arrest, detention, prosecution or investigative discharge and acquittal of the accused civilian citizens. By procedures and laws regulating the 'inter-security agencies' operations in Nigeria, members of the Armed Forces are barred from "detaining, investigating and prosecuting civilians not covered by the Armed Forces Act of 2004". By Law, too, powers of arrest, suspicion of committing crimes, preliminary investigation and legitimate self defense (including use of licensed firearms), etc are a general right granted to the armed state actors and the civilians in Nigeria. In the exercise of the citizens' right of arrest, restrictions are imposed on powers of detention, general investigation and prosecution; exclusively granted to Nigeria Police Force and its relevant departments. The power of detention, investigation and prosecution granted to the DSS are restricted to their core establishment mandates especially intelligence, investigation and indictments arising from treason and treasonable felonies including terrorism, terrorism financing and insurrections, etc.

It however saddens our heart that in practice, the above processes, procedures and their limitations have been bastardized and observed in gross breach. This is to the extent that the DSS operatives now accuse, arrest, torture, starve and arbitrarily detain simple offenders, misdemeanors, street protesters and unarmed innocent citizens as “terrorists” or ‘insurrectionists’. All members of the Nigeria security forces are also guilty of egregious and grisly attacks on defenseless citizens and burning down of their houses and other properties using false labeling and stigmatization during which torture and other inhuman and degrading treatments or punishments are widespread. Extrajudicial and unlawful killings, abductions and disappearances have also become the operational trademarks of all the Nigerian security agencies drafted to Imo State and the South-East.

Laws Against False Labeling And Class Criminalization In Nigeria

Laws against false labeling of individual citizens and class criminalization or perception and treatment of an ethnic and religious group as “members of a criminal class” are well founded in Nigeria. Specifically, Sections 33 and 34 of the Constitution of Nigeria 1999 Constitution (as amended) are provided to protect citizens from arbitrary deprivation of their fundamental human rights to life and dignity of human person. Under them, no unarmed citizen or a group of unarmed citizens can be deprived of their lives and dignity of human person including getting them killed or wounded; or tortured and degraded using false labeling and class criminalization. Sections 35 and 36 make far reaching provisions protecting them from arbitrary deprivation of their personal liberty and fair hearing in matters of custodial confinement and treatments. Under Section 35, time limits for the arrest and detention of the arrested citizens based on offense category (simple, misdemeanor and felonious offenses) are clearly outlined; with subsection 4 dealing with detained citizens accused of committing capital offenses.

Under 36 (8) of the Constitution (Right to Fair Hearing), “no person shall be guilty of a criminal offence on account of an act or omission that was not an offence under the law as at the time the act or omission was done, and no penalty imposed for a criminal offence shall be heavier than the penalty in force at the time the offence was committed”. Also, under Section 36 (12), “a person shall not be convicted of a criminal offence unless that criminal offence and its penalty are defined under a written criminal law”. Under Section 42, citizens are protected from discrimination on the grounds of sex or gender, ethnicity, religion and class. The above provisions are replicated in the African Rights Charter of 1981 (ratified and domesticated by Nigeria in June 1983) and the Int’l Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1976, ratified by Nigeria in 1993.

95% Of Investigations Into “Biafra Matters” In Imo Inconclusive

Not less than 95% of criminal investigations launched by various drafted security agencies in Imo State and the South-East have ended up being ‘inconclusive’. Owing to indiscriminate use of ethnic and religious profiling, false labeling and class criminalization, most of the ‘investigations’ launched by the drafted security forces on “Biafra Matters” in Imo have ended up being inconclusive. The inconclusiveness of the 95% of the criminal investigations is further fueled by rumor mongering, hearsay conclusions and biased and false security intelligence as well as general lack of modern criminal investigation skills and tools. The Nigerian Military especially the Army which existentially lacks tools and skills for criminal investigations involving citizens not covered by the Armed Forces Act of 2004 has earned notoriety in ‘failed criminal investigations’; thereby swelling its extrajudicial killings, unlawful executions, abductions and disappearances’ records. The drafted security forces have generally abandoned modern day technology and mental skill-ruled criminal investigations for ‘short-cuts’ including indiscriminate shootings, killings, and custodial torture and disappearances. DSS in Imo also uses custodial torture and starvation ‘short-cuts’ in place of diligent and ‘man-mental-machine’ driven criminal intelligence gathering and investigations.

Court Remand Orders Constitute 90% Of Judicial Actions On “Biafra Matters” In Imo

Apart from extrajudicial killings, unlawful executions, custodial torture and disappearances forming the bulk of the drafted security forces and their commanders’ processing of unarmed citizens rightly or wrongly accused of being in conflict with offenses of felony, misdemeanors or simple offenses in Imo State and the South-East since January 2021, it has also been investigated and found that only 10% court trials involving those accused of committing offences of “Biafra terrorism” are ongoing in the State and the Region. In other words, it is likely correct to say that 90% of the court actions on “Biafra Matters” are made up of the ‘remand orders’. This also indicates that more than 90% of the unarmed citizens who survived being shot and killed extra-judicially or disappeared after being falsely labeled; presently languishing in prisons in Imo State and the South-East are ‘remand or pretrial inmates’.

Remand orders are replacement of “Holden Charge”; presently contained in the Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015. Often abused and dubiously granted outside due process, they are judicial permissions by the arresting and investigating law enforcement officers on ‘high crimes’ or offenses bordering on treason and treasonable felonies and others carrying capital offenses, to dump the detained citizens in prisons for weeks or months or abusively for years, for purposes of continuation and conclusion of investigations. Inmate-victims of the pretrial remands are found to have presently constituted 70% or over 52,000 of Nigeria’s over 75,000 prison inmates. Not less than 95% of criminal prosecutions (if any) in Imo State and the South-East since January 2021 involving “Biafra Matters” have also been stalled or abandoned for want of sufficient prosecutorial evidence.

No Court Convictions Against “Biafra Terror” Detainees In Imo/S/East Since August 2015

The International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety) has evaluated and found that there are no verifiable records showing that the Nigerian Government through its various police and DSS prosecution departments and the Federal and State Ministries of Justice have secured any conviction or convictions against those arrested and arbitrarily detained for “seriously involved in Biafra Matters” or “Biafra terrorism”. In other words, there are no records of convictions secured by the Government of Nigeria or any State Government in South-East and South-South against any unarmed citizen or group of unarmed citizens arrested and detained for “Biafra terrorism” in Imo State since January 2021; or in South-East and South-South since August 2015. It must be remembered that clampdown and crackdown on unarmed and defenseless citizens and their properties including dwelling houses began in August 2015 when the Government of Nigeria unleashed its coercive instruments on them using ethnic and religious profiling, class criminalization, false labeling and stigmatization.

The present Government of Nigeria which leaves office on 29th May 2023 had been tagging street protesters, working class citizens, social function attendants or returnees and other unarmed and defenseless citizens in the East as “IPOB or Biafra terrorists, their sponsors and supporters”. The drafted security forces also labeled sundry street criminal activities in the Region as “IPOB terrorism”; and unleashed mayhem on unarmed civilian population and their properties. Despite the Nigerian Government deployment of deadly force and prosecutorial vindictiveness on unarmed and defenseless Eastern Nigeria Judeo-Christian-traditionalist population since 2015 or a period of eight years, no convictions have been secured till date especially by the Nigeria Police Force and the DSS-two leading accusing, investigating and prosecuting authorities. Also owing to incurable lack of powers of “detention, investigation and prosecution”, the Nigerian Army and other branches of the Military have ended up shooting, killing and disappearing without traces their abductors in captivity.

Constitutional Breaches In Imo Mass Murders And House Burnings

Apart from serious violations of the regional and int'l human rights and humanitarian laws and acceded obligations or commitments in Imo mass murders and house burnings, there are also grave constitutional breaches and perpetration of other internationally prohibited acts or conducts. The constitutional provisions in breach are those contained in the Fundamental Human Rights Charter (sections 33-46) which guarantee the fundamental human rights to the citizenry irrespective of age, sex, tribe and religion, etc; especially with regard to rights to life and dignity of human person; rights to freedom of expression, association, movement and peaceful assembly; right to own or acquire immovable properties and adequate compensations in the event of coercive dispossession or malicious destruction; and detained citizens' rights to fair hearing and fair trial including rights to humane conditions while in detention and their rights to be tried in court within the constitutionally prescribed timeframes. Also guaranteed to the detained unarmed citizens are rights to access to their lawyers, families and physicians while in detention, etc.

Regional And Int'l Treaty Laws In Gross Breach In Imo

There are gross breaches of the regional and int'l Treaty Laws in Imo mass murders and house burnings since January 2021. These grossly breached Treaty Laws are those regional and international rights and humanitarian treaties signed and ratified or domesticated by Nigeria. Among them are crimes of genocide defined under the Article 6; crimes against humanity defined under the Article 7 and war crimes defined under the Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Rome or ICC Statute was enacted in 1998 and it entered into force in July 2002; with Nigeria signing and ratifying it on 27th Sept 2001. Nigeria is also signatory to the Genocide Convention of 1948 and the Geneva Conventions or Laws of War of 1949 and its 1977 Protocols including its Rules of Engagement (Jus In Bellum, Jus Ad Bellum and Jus Post Bellum) and Use of Force and Proportionality of same. Signed and ratified by Nigeria-with legal binding effects and devoid of derogations are the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (including Right to nonviolent Self Determination) of 1981, ratified and domesticated by Nigeria in June 1983; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1976, signed and ratified in 1993; the UN Convention against Enforced Disappearances of 2009, ratified by Nigeria in 2009 and the UN Convention against Torture of 1985 also ratified by Nigeria. The African Rights Charter also provided for group citizens' *rights to ethnic identity, development, freedom of worship and nonviolent self determination*. Breaches of the above especially in Imo State and the South-East clearly amount to international heinous crimes and under Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and the Criminal and Penal Codes and their procedural laws, they amount to grievous 'crimes against persons and properties'.

Other Internationally Prohibited Acts In Imo Mass Murders And House Burnings

They include: *unlawful imprisonment, unlawful killings, unlawful executions, abduction of slain victims' bodies, extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, persecution against an identifiable group on the grounds of tribe/ethnicity and religion, enforced disappearance of persons, torture and other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health and acts of propagation and promotion of radical religiosity, etc.*

Nigerian Army Lacks Power To Detain, Investigate And Prosecute Unarmed Citizens In Imo

The Nigerian Army and other branches of the country's Military are formatively restricted and restrained by Nigeria's written laws from going beyond their defined duties including usurping the key duties of the Nigeria Police Force such as power of arrest, detention, investigation and prosecution of suspected civilian offenders and their offenses. As a matter of fact, several Decided Cases or Case-Laws abound barring the Army/Military from "arresting, detaining and investigating citizens who are not subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 or any other Military law". A case in point was a landmark judgment delivered by Hon Justice Taiwo Taiwo of the Abuja Division of the Federal High Court on 17th Feb 2021 that "Nigerian Army lacks power to arrest, detain and prosecute citizens who are not subject to the Armed Forces Act of 2004 or any other Military law".

Defined Instruments For Protection Of Unarmed And Defenseless Citizens In Nigeria

By *extrajudicial executions*, they are defined by international law as unlawful and deliberate killings carried out by policing and other security agents including soldiers by order of a government or with its complicity or acquiescence.

By *unlawful killings*, they involve killings resulting from excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, which violate right to life guaranteed by Nigeria's 1999 Constitution (S.33), the Int'l Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 6.1) and the African Charter on Human & People's Rights (Article 4), ratified and domesticated by Nigeria on 26th June 1983 (African Charter).

By *enforced disappearance(s)*, it is a situation where a person or persons are arrested, detained, abducted or otherwise deprived of liberty by the authorities or their agents, or people acting with their authorization, support or acquiescence, but the authorities do not acknowledge this or conceal the abducted persons' fate or whereabouts, placing them outside the protection of the law. These are provided in the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, signed and ratified by Nigeria on 27th July 2009.

By *torture*, it is any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

By *summary or arbitrary executions*, they are executions in which persons are accused of a crime or crimes and immediately killed outside conclusive criminal investigations and without benefit of a full and fair trial

"Criminal Citizens" By Jungle Justice Envelop Imo And South-East

It is hereby noted that unarmed and defenseless citizens have become "criminals by jungle justice" in Imo State and South-East; no thanks to the drafted security agencies and their commanders. By Statute, **A criminal** is anybody that has attained 18yrs of age who violates the criminal laws of a country or a defined political territory such as Nigeria. For a citizen to be validly called a "criminal", he or she must undergo the full the processes of *arrest, investigation, prosecution, fair trial, conviction and sentencing* by a criminal court of competent jurisdiction after being credibly accused of breaching *mala prohibita (crimes specifically defined by specific country's legislation such as cybercrime or public nuisance crimes) or mala in se (crimes with universal uniformity and application such as violent crimes of armed robbery, abduction or murder or heinous political crimes such as insurrection, treason, armed resistance and terrorism or terrorism financing)*.

Therefore, all forms of killings and maiming contrary to or in gross breach of the above local and international due processes and laws are technically amount to *extra jus* (beyond the law), *extra-legal* (beyond what the written criminal law provides) and *extrajudicial* (beyond court or judicial pronouncement or verdict). That is to say that any killing of human being, rightly or wrongly accused of being in conflict with criminal law, by a State actor or official security operative, official or officer of the law without the completeness of such unarmed slain citizen being subjected, before his or her killing, to the processes of *arrest, investigation, prosecution, fair trial, conviction and sentencing* by a criminal court of competent jurisdiction inexcusably amounts to *extra jus, extra-legal and extrajudicial killing*.

Mindless Breaches Of Constitutional And International Liberties In Imo And South-East

By Section 36 (8) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution, nobody shall be held to be guilty of a criminal offence if such act or omission did not constitute a criminal offence as at the time of his or her arrest and detention and no penalty heavier than that in force as at the time the alleged offence was committed shall be imposed on him or her. By Section 36 (12) of the Constitution, nobody shall be convicted of a criminal offence if the act or omission is not defined and the penalty, therefore, is prescribed in written law. By Section 35 (4) (a), nobody shall be arrested and detained for more than 60 days without trial or court bail in the case of any citizen or citizens accused of committing an offence with capital punishment such as armed robbery or abduction or murder or rape or terrorism or terrorism financing (treason or treasonable felony). Under the law, the mission of a public official or officer to act is a criminal offence. This is in addition to aiding and abetting a crime. Morally guiding and binding are the *codes of conduct and operational rules of engagement for personnel and officers of the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigerian Army and other members of the Nigerian Armed Forces and the DSS*; designed to checkmate perpetration of human rights abuses and violations in the conduct of their official duties.

Regionally, Nigeria is a key member of the African Union and as such, bound by its key treaties and obligations especially the African Charter on Human & Peoples Rights of 1981. The African Rights Charter which is fully part and parcel of Nigeria's body of laws is comprehensively in agreement with the Chapter Four (Fundamental Human Rights) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. The African Rights Charter also continues where the Chapter Four stops with the provision of '**Group Rights**' such as right to nonviolent self determination and indigenous people's rights to existence, ethnic identity and development. The African Rights Charter, ratified and domesticated by Nigeria on 26th June 1983, is presently cited in the country as *African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Ratification and Enforcement Act, Cap A9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004)*. The operability and enforceability of the African Rights Charter in Nigeria's municipal laws or legal system was also decided affirmatively by the country's Supreme Court in *Gen Sani Abacha & Ors v. Chief Gani Fawehinmi* (2000) 4 FWLR 533.

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (also known as the Banjul Charter) is a regional and international human rights instrument, designed to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the African continent. Its Civil and Political Rights version recognizes most of what is regarded as universally accepted civil and political rights. The civil and political rights recognized in the Charter include the right to freedom from discrimination (Article 2 and 18(3)), equality (Article 3), life and personal integrity (Article 4), dignity (Article 5), freedom from slavery (Article 5), freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5), rights to due process concerning arrest and detention (Article 6), the right to a fair trial (Article 7 and 25), freedom of religion (Article 8). Others are freedom of information and expression (Article 9), freedom of association (Article 10), freedom to assembly (Article 11), freedom of movement (Article 12), freedom to political participation (Article 13), and the right to property (Article 14). It must also be pointed out that **the fundamental human rights of any Nigerian citizen to acquire and own immovable property in Nigeria and be entitled to adequate compensation, if maliciously attacked and destroyed or dispossessed by public officials or officers are provided in Sections 43 and 44 of the Nigeria's 1999 Constitution.**

Internationally, Nigeria is a key member of the international community including the United Nations and is bound by its treaties and obligations such as the Int'l Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Int'l Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1976, signed and ratified by Nigeria in 1993. The **Int'l Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** in its **Part 1** (Article 1) recognizes the rights of all peoples including the Igbo People of Nigeria nonviolent self-determination: "freely determine their political status, pursue their economic, social and cultural goals, and manage and dispose of their own resources". This is the same with Article 1 of the **Int'l Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1976**, signed and ratified by Nigeria in 1993.

Generally, Nigeria is a State Party to *the UN Covenant on Civil & Political Rights and the UN Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights of 1976; the UN Genocide and Torture Conventions of 1948 and 1985, the UN Convention for Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of 2009, the UN Women and Child Rights Conventions of 1984 and 1990, the UN Convention against All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1969, the UN Statute on Refugees of 1951, the Rome Statute of the Int'l Criminal Court of 1998 and the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials of 1979, the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials of 1990, the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights of 1981, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People of 2007; and the Geneva Conventions or Laws of War of 1949* (enacted to regulate inter State and intra State conflicts and treatment of non combatants including refugees and IDPs affected by either of the conflicts). Nigeria is also legally and morally bound by the regional and international enactments.

International Rules Of Engagement For The Protection Of Civilians In Violent Environments

Under circumstances of war or situations of internal conflict or policing and management of violent environments,, they are strictly regulated regionally and internationally. Nigerian security forces including soldiers and police crack squads are bound by the UN's Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials of 1979 and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials of 1990. In situations of internal armed violence and coercive management of same, Nigeria is bound by the Geneva Conventions or Laws of War of 1949 and their Four Protocols including the doctrine of rules of engagement and its principles of use of force, proportionality of force and rules of self-defence. The International Rules of Engagement are traditionally associated with internal armed conflicts and have become an integral part of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. They originally came from the three war-related doctrines of Jus Ad Bellum (justification and ground for going to war); Jus In Bellum (ethical rules of conduct during war or armed violence such as ethical standards expected of armed fighting parties; and Jus Post Bellum (regulations on how wars are ended and facilitation of transition from war to peace or post conflict transformation).

Ten Key Features Of The International Rules Of Engagement For Armed State Actors

There are also ten key features of the International Rules of Engagement and they are (1) *legitimate use of force*, (2) *proportionality of use of force*, (3) *legitimate self defense*, (4) *treatment of prisoners of war or conflict*, and (5) *avoidance of attacks on non-military necessity or civilian targets or properties (including civilian houses)*, (6) *avoidance of attacks on civilians or non-combatants*, (7) *treatment of the wounded*, (8) *avoidance of attacks on culture symbols or places of worship*, (9) *avoidance of attacks on humanitarian agencies and personnel/human rights activists*; and (10) *legitimate treatment of other peoples of the war (i.e. spies and journalists)*.

Supporting Statistics

Provided below is the database of unaddressed atrocities perpetrated by armed state actors in Imo since Jan 2021 amounting to war crimes, crimes against humanity and other internationally prohibited acts or conducts. The Imo mass murders and burning or destruction of civilian houses and other properties are also impunity prone. This is because till date, the armed state actors and their armed opposition fighting opponents as state actor and non state actor atrocity perpetrators have remained on the prowl and freely walk in the streets of Nigeria with impunity; a clear evidence of the Government of Nigeria's "inability and unwillingness" and omission to act; which is a fundamental breach of the International Law 'Principles of Complementarity and Zero Impunity' for the perpetrators.

Victims Of False Labeling And Arbitrary Arrest/Detention In Imo

The 106 names below represent victims of false labeling and arbitrary arrest and detention in Imo State since January 2021. Among them were 106 unarmed and defenseless citizens whose names are given below. They were indiscriminately arrested or abducted by various Police, Army and DSS operation squads in different parts of Owerri between second and third week of May 2021 and “arraigned” in a “special mobile court” at the premises of the Owerri State CID and immediately after “remanded” at Owerri State Prisons (Correctional Center) on 21st May 2021. Upon their mass arrest or abduction, they were falsely labeled and slammed with phantom charges of “treason”, “treasonable felony”, “arson” and so on. Their outcries and uproars generated by their mass arrest and “arraignment and remand” forced the then Catholic Archbishop of Owerri Ecclesiastical Province, His Lordship, Archbishop Anthony Obinna to pay a solidarity visit to them at Owerri Prisons on 26th May 2021.

Their names and productive ages are: (1)Chidi Udechukwu, 42years old, 2. Chinyere Okoroji (female), 40years old, 3.Festus Ernest, 40 years old, 4. Tochukwu Ejiba, 35years old, 5. Chiboy Ogbonna, 23years old, 6. Ifeanyi Opara, 22years old, 7. Yusuf Bello, 20years old, 8. James Mmereole, 26years old, 9. Ada Oguamanam (female), 30years old, 10. Henry Oguamanam, 48years old, 11. Odunze Chukwu, 21years old, 12. Sunday Victor, 25years old, 13. Ozioma Chibuike, 26years old, 14. Ugochukwu Iwuchukwu, 26years old, 15. Chijioke Ndubuisi, 45years old, 16. Uwadiogwu Kingsley, 29years old, 17. Emeka Leechi Stephen, 34years old, 18. Aguh Chukwuemeka, 31years old, 19. Alex Ejike, 31years old, 20. Bright Umezuruike, 34years old, 21. Ikenna Egwuatu, 31years old, 22. Felix Ferdinand, 38years old, 23. Obinna Uzor, 33years old, 24. Osondu Orji, 34years old, 25. Chibueze Chimezie, 23years old, 26. Opara Mmaduabuchi, 28years old, 27. Kelechi Edward, 21years old, 28. Promise Emmanuel, 28years old, 29. Ogbonna Paschal, 28years old, 30. Anthony Gbadamosi, 45years old, 31. Nwachukwu Chilota, 25years old, 32. Chinedu Osuji, 26years old, 33. Chinonso Onyeka, 26years old, 34. Emmanuel Nwosu, 22years old, 35. Ugochukwu Ojinnaka, 21years old, 36. Ifeanyi Nwachukwu, 37years old, 37. Chukwuma Anukam, 30years old, 38. Ikenna Eke, 38years old, 39. Ogbonna Obasi, 42years old

Included are: 40. Okechukwu Anusionwu, 36years old, 41. John Musa Bawa, 35years old, 42. Udoka Chukwukere, 22years old, 43. Lucia Ezebuike (female), 22years old, 44. Obinnwanne Cynthia (female/underage), 17years old, 45. Chinasa Ike (female), 22years old, 46. Calista David (female), 56years old, 47. Chinazaram David, 18years old, 48. Kingsley Ozumba, 31years old, 49. Daniel Gabriel, 31years old, 50. Emmanuel Justice, 35years old, 51. Obinna Nwadike, 25years old, 52. Ihechi Ibekwe, 42years old, 53. Ishaya John, 21years old, 54. Leonard Chizoba, 29years old, 55. Chinedu Nwadike, 38years old, 56. Ofili Chukwuemeka, 22years old, 57. Agbagwa Chidubem, 25years old, 58. Wisdom Kelechi Orjinta, 35years old, 59. Promise Ezeukwu, 20years, 60. Ifeanyi Duruaku, 49years, 61. Chinedu Nwalaka, 34years old, 62. Onyebuchi Abasirim, 28years old, 63. Onyii Ugo, 35years old, 64. Osaze Prince, 20years old, 65. Desmond Stanley, 45years, 66. Daniel Akan, 28years old, 67. Onyekachi Nwachukwu, 32years old, 68. Princewill Obinna Odoemena, 33years old. 69. Nwaenyi Mmaduabuchi, 22years old and 70. Uma Onyemaechi, 25years old. 71. Orji Solomon, 27years old, 72. Uzoma Johnson, 19years old, 73. Onyeocha Chukwuebuka, 20years old, 74. Chukwuemeka Michael, 35years old.

The rest are: 75. Chika Amadi, 32years old, 76. Bilu Ujunwa, 29years old, 77. Chimenka Nwaoguru, 28years old, 78. Kenneth Nwosu, 52years old, 79. Godwin Ekeada, 37years old, 80. Barode Adesuyiode, 29years old, 81. Oke Kahinde, 29years old and 82. Emmanuel Egwuonwu, 35years old, 83. Awurum Mbanu, 29years old, 84. Anthony Okechukwu, 59years old, 85.Mmadu Anthony 36years old, 86. Onyeoziri Alphonsus, 40years old, 87. Iheeme Victor, 22years old, 88. Kenneth Udensi, 38years old, 89. Okparaugo Uchenna, 38years old, 90. Chibueze Nwokeji, 29years old, 91. Uche Nwachukwu, 30years old, 92.Chika Osuji, 39years old, 93. Citizen Last-Born Echenwozor, 62years old, 94.Anyanwu Nnaoma, 25years old, 95.Chigozie Onyeka, 28years old, 96. Okebanama John, 28years old, 97. Ohamara Clinton, 21years old, 98. Ohagim Chibuike, 20years old, 99. Mathew Odunaka, 20years old, 100. Peter Mbah, 45years old, 101. Ruya John, 26years old, 102.Innocent Chinazor, 19years old, 103. Ugonna Dike, 25years old, 104. Onyebuchi Aguzie, 64years old, 105. Chibuzor Onuoha, 38years old and 106. Nkemakolam Okoro, 20years old.

A Case Of Falsely-Labeled And Extorted 10 Owerri Residents Abducted By Police IRT

Below represents hundreds of victims of unarmed and innocent citizens of Imo State abducted and falsely accused by Police IRT of the Force CIB, Abuja and other police crack squads and operational squads of the Nigerian Army, Air Force, Navy and DSS. In the instant case, dozens were rounded up in Owerri and its environs in April and May 2021 and falsely labeled "IPOB/ESN/Unknown Gunmen terrorizing Imo State" and subsequently moved to the Nigeria Police Force Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (FCIB) or "Police IRT (the Abuja Abattoir"-where they were detained and tortured for involvement in "Biafra Matters" or "Biafra Terrorism". It took the timely intervention of **Intersociety** through petitions and media campaigns for ten of the abducted and falsely accused unarmed citizens to be released and saved from being tortured or starved or shot to death in custody. The victims were also forced to cough out between N1m and N1.5m each as "bail fees" and were threatened with re-arrest and severe punishments if they publicly disclosed how they were extorted and how much they were forced to pay.

Their names are:

- John Chinonso, 24 Years Old: He is from Nchoko Dikenafai Community in Ideato South, Imo State and living at Apiti Street by Hardel Junction, Orji-Uratta in Owerri North, Imo State. An orphan living with his elder brother orphan (Emmanuel), Citizen Chinonso owned and managed 'DADDYFRESH BARBING SALOON' at Ogboru Umuchoke by Hardel Bus Stop, Uratta. He responded to his elder brother's call for him to close his shop and return home before dawn owing to precarious security situation in Owerri and environs and as he was going home in the evening of Tuesday, 25th May 2021 at about 4pm, the police patrol personnel blocked him and arrested him at gunpoint. Citizen John Chinonso was in the same evening paraded alongside four others as "ESN hoodlums that attempted to burn down Orji Police Station".
- Chukwudi Okoro, 29 years old: He is a Shuttle Bus transporter/owner, plying Owerri-Orji route with his apprentice who drives the Bus. He is from Akabo-Amata in Orji, near Owerri, Imo State. His wife, Chioma, was heavily pregnant for seven months. Citizen Chukwudi Okoro and his driver were heading home in the early evening of 25th May 2021, having closed early as a result of precarious security situation in Owerri and environs including rising wave of Army and Police abductions and extrajudicial killings. They sighted police patrol personnel shooting indiscriminately around Orji and environs, forcing Citizen Chukwudi Okoro to jump out of his Shuttle Bus in fear and ask his driver to take the Bus to the driver's house so that he could find a safer route to his house. He barely trekked meters when police patrol personnel blocked his way and arrested him at gunpoint. He was paraded in the same evening alongside four others as "ESN hoodlums that attempted to burn down Orji Police Station".
- Casmir Ibegbulem, 40 years old: He is a father of one, expectant father of another and a "Permit Holder" staff of LNG Company at Bonny Island in Bayelsa State and a native of Ogwa Community in Mbaitoli, Imo State. Citizen Casmir Ibegbulem returned for the burial of his in-law, which took place on Friday, 28th May 2021. He was in Owerri on Tuesday, 25th May 2021 to pick up personal items needed when police patrol personnel bounced on him at gunpoint and arrested him. He was paraded in the same evening alongside four others as "ESN hoodlums that attempted to burn down Orji Police Station". Citizen Casmir Ibegbulem is married to Onyekachi who is pregnant for seven months. It is noted here that Citizen Ibegbulem was later released at Force Headquarters (FCIB), Abuja after being forced to secretly pay N1.5m and seriously warned not to disclose it publicly.
- Chigaemezu Sebastian, 26 Years Old: He is 26 years old and unmarried, residing at Naze, Owerri, Imo State. He is a trader/plumber at Ogbosisi (Timber) Market, Owerri and hails from Asaa, Ngugo in Ikeduru, Imo State. He was unjustly arrested en routing his village at Ikeduru when several gunshots were being fired by soldiers and police personnel, he was arrested by police on 25th May 2021 and was in the same evening paraded alongside four others and falsely labeled "ESN hoodlums that attempted to burn down Orji Police Station". The lawyer hired by the family for the matter was denied access and audience with him at Imo State CID and on Saturday evening, 29th May 2021, Citizen Chigaemezu called

his elder brother from Abuja (Force Headquarters (FCIB) where he was transferred alongside four others.

- Daberechi Alozie, 25 Years Old: He hails from Obokofia-Egbema in Ohaji/Egbema LGA, Imo State and was with his relative, a retired permanent secretary in the Imo State Civil Service who was his guardian for over 20 years at Jerusalem Lodge, Umukoto Nekede, Owerri. Citizen Daberechi Alozie was on his way to Ogwa for a job for one Mrs. Onyinye Onyenaka when he ran into Security Agents at Orji on 25th May 2021 and was arrested. Citizen Alozie was also among those transferred to Force Headquarters (FCIB), Abuja.

- Ugbo Casmir Nnaemeka and Ojukwu Ukonu: They differently reside at World Bank Housing Estate, New Owerri and Igwe Allen Okoro Street, Off MCC Road, Owerri and were arrested differently on trumped up allegations on 13th May (Ojukwu Ukonu) and 14th May 2021 (Casmir Nnaemeka Ugbo) by the operatives of the anti kidnapping squad of the Imo State Police Command. The two had served in various capacities in the administration of former Governor Rochas Okorocha and were still aides working for the former Governor. Citizens Ugbo Casmir Nnaemeka and Ojukwu Ukonu are fathers of children living with their wives and differently hail from Umuezike Obibi-Ochasi in Orlu, Imo State (Nnaemeka Casmir) and Obinocha-Nkwere in Nkwere, Imo State (Ojukwu Ukonu). On Friday, 28th May 2021, the Imo State Police Command released a false statement: "Police Arrest Four (Five) Additional ESN Hoodlums That Attacked Imo Prison (Correctional) Headquarters, Others...". The Police Command not only named the duo alongside two (three) others as "ESN hoodlums" but also falsely claimed to have arrested them on Thursday, 27th May 2021 "during a coded raid operation to fish out "ESN hoodlums"; when evidence showed that they were arrested and detained on 13th and 14th May 2021, a period of two weeks before the Police false claims and labeling.

*Smith Amadikwa: Citizen Smith Amadikwa was 44 years old father of kids and happily married to Hon Mrs. Ebere Amadikwa, a former Leader of the Obowo Local Government Legislative Council under former Governor Rochas Okorocha and they reside at Umuagu Seven and Half Junction, Obowo and hail from Umuagu in Obowo. According to his wife, Smith Amadikwa was arrested and detained on 12th May 2021 after he had gone in company of his wife to catch up with an appointment at Owerri Shoprite/ Samsung from where he was arrested by the Imo State Police Command. His wife waited in futility for her husband in their car to join her back home. Citizen Smith Amadikwa also served under Okorocha administration and presently owned "Smith's Comedy Show"; and a well known 'Master of Ceremony' and 'Movie Actor'. He was among the four (five) names falsely labeled "ESN hoodlums that attacked Imo State Prison Headquarters".

- Engineer Ikechukwu Okomah, 50 Years Old: He is a graduate of Engineering from the Enugu State University, class of 1996 and Masters Degree holder in Chemical Engineering and a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers as well as a licensed petroleum dealer and an executive member of IPMAN (independent petroleum marketers association of Nigeria). Married with kids and living with his wife, he is from Ubahaezike, Awo Idemmili in Orsu Local Government Area, Imo State and resided at MCC Road, Uratta, Owerri. He was falsely accused and arrested on 19th May 2021 by the anti kidnapping squad of the Imo State Police Command and was on Friday, 28th May 2021 co-labeled by the Imo State Police Command as "ESN hoodlums that attacked Imo State Prison Headquarters".

- Emeka Mbonu (Mescana), 39 Years Old and Ibe Chisom Amadi: Emeka Mbonu is a father of three kids and happily married, residing at MCC Road/Amawire, Owerri. He was into real estate and was a staff of Owerri Capital Development Authority under former Governor Rochas Okorocha. He hails from Osina in Ideato North, Imo State and was arrested and detained by the operatives of the Imo State Police Command on 13th May 2021 and was co-labeled "ESN hoodlums that attacked Imo State Prison Headquarters".

It must be noted that Citizens Ikechukwu Okomah and Emeka Mbonu were also accused of “possessing firearms” and later accused of “being ESN hoodlums that attacked Imo State Prison Headquarters”. Citizen Ibe Chisom, on his part, was a Port Harcourt based father of three and a surveyor who was arrested by police/SSS on 18th March 2021 and whisked away in his white Toyota Camry car. He had returned from Port Harcourt to his Umuodiya, Umuegwum in Mbaise, Imo State for a funeral ceremony when he was arrested around 12noon of 18th March 2021.

- Akachukwu Nwadike, 24 Years Old and 20 Others: At Ogbosisi Market, Owerri, 24 years old Akachukwu Nwadike was severally and severely stabbed with knives by police personnel from the Imo State Police Command and later taken away alongside twenty others. The police personnel had violently stormed the crowded Market and smashed windscreens of over ten parked private and commercial vehicles during which they broke into a food restaurant owned by Citizen Akachukwu’s aged mother and stabbed him alongside two customers.

Detailed Account Of Enyiogugu (Mbaise) Military Looting And Faked Gulak Assassination

Contrary to public statements issued by the Imo State Police Command, a lorry loaded with onions from Northern Nigeria and moving from Umuahia to Obowo and Ahiara was waylaid at Enyiogugu Market Square in Aboh-Mbaise by aggrieved violent citizens leading to passersby including church goers and returnees and some Okada riders, etc scrambling for their illicit sharing and in reprisal following phone calls by some Northern Muslim civilians, soldiers stormed the scene and opened fire in the crowded Market Square, shooting indiscriminately and in the end, scores of unarmed citizens were killed and others injured. Coincided with the target killing of Mr. Gulak, security agencies including the Imo State Police Command turned around and linked the onion lorry attack incident to Mr. Gulak’s assassination and went on to falsely label those killed and maimed by soldiers as “ESN hoodlums that killed Gulak”.

The above was even when the armed group that waylaid the lorry-load of onions had left the scene. Cars displayed by the Police as “operational exhibits belonging to the ESN hoodlums” were those belonging to innocent motorists using the route. The first military attack took place on Sunday, 30th May 2021 and as if that was not enough, on Monday, 31st May 2021, the personnel of the Nigerian Air Force Base, Owerri procured by some Northern Muslims to retrieve the lorry headed to Enyiogugu Market Square where they wantonly looted and destroyed civilian shops at sight. Information also had it that Northerners living around ENYIOGUGU were taking the military men from one big shop to the other as they looted and packed away the goods amidst indiscriminate shootings which forced the victims to be unable to take photos and videos.

Names of those whose shops were looted by the Military Anti Bomb squad and the Air Force personnel that came with a lorry and food items looted are:

- GEORGE NDULAKA – Assorted Drinks * FRANK AKUBUEZE – Assorted Drinks & Restaurant * CRESCENTIA NWACHUKWU – Several Bags of Rice, many cartons of noodles, spaghetti, macaroni, many cartons of assorted milk, Milo, Ovaltine, soaps, several Parks of soft drinks, cartons of cigarettes, cartons of wines & hot drinks etc * JOHN AKUSHIE – several cartons of wine and hot drinks, soft drinks, one bag of rice, several Parks of soft drinks etc * LIVINUS ANUFURO – Assorted electrical and electronics carted away * CHUKWUDI NWAGWU – Bags of Rice, many cartons of noodles, macaroni, many cartons of assorted beverages, soaps, soft drinks, cartons of cigarettes, cartons of wines & hot drinks etc * JOHN OPARA – Big Gen set carted away * ONYINYECHI OPARA – Refrigerator and big get set carted * CHIMA OBASI – Shop only forced open nothing was removed * TEDDY IGBO – shop broken but nothing was removed * CHIKODI AKALI – Shop only forced open nothing was removed * BENSON OBILOR – Fruits shop vandalized * UJOJI CHISOM – Provision store completely vandalized * BEST OGBONNA – Gen set carted * NDUKWU JACINTA – wine shop vandalized with tailoring machines carted away * NJOKU UGOCHI – fruit shop vandalized * JANE ANYANWU – provision shop vandalized * CHRISTOPHER OPARA – shop broken but nothing was

removed * KENNETH UWASOMBA – shop broken but nothing was removed *UCHE NWALOE – Provision store vandalized

Abducted And Disappeared Victims

The names below represent not less than 300 unarmed citizens arrested or abducted by security forces in Imo State and disappeared since January 2021. They include: Ibeleme Tochukwu, 35years old, from Obibiochasi in Imo State, abducted on 15th June 2021; Ugochukwu Umeh, abducted in Owerri on 23rd April and taken to Mogadishu Barracks, Abuja and disappeared without traces till date; Precious Uwaoma, abducted in Imo State; Chinaza Gideon, 30 years old (in 2021) from Obowo, Imo State, abducted on 14th May 2021 and moved to Abuja on 26th May 2021; Jude Chukwu, 60years old artist from Umulolo, Okigwe, abducted 23rd Feb 2021, labeled “Unknown Gunman” and disappeared; Akachukwu Nwachukwu, Chukwudi Okafor, Kingsley Ukachukwu and Ebuka Okafor, abducted by police crack squads since 18th April 2021 and were last traced to State CID, Owerri; Ibe Chisom Amadi, a Port Harcourt based surveyor and father of three, abducted by Police and DSS since 18th May 2021 at Umuegwum, Mbaize, Imo State and disappeared till date.

Unarmed citizens below were abducted and disappeared in Owerri Municipal: Dim Uchechukwu abducted by DSS at Irete, Paul Okechukwu, abducted by police at Owerri Relief Market, Gift Nwali abducted by DSS at Ikenegbu, Owerri, Ifeanyi Arinze abducted by DSS at Owerri and Anayo Anyaibe, abducted and disappeared by the Police till date. Under Obowo LGA, Unarmed Citizen Austine Oguoke was abducted and disappeared. Those abducted and disappeared under Oguta LGA are: Nnamdi Obiechina, Henry Asika, Nkejika Uwazurike Ohamara, John Peter, JP, Prince Dino Ajaero and under Ahiara-Mbaize, Citizens Iheoma Kennedy, Ekwueme Kingsley and Onyekachi Uzoma Njoku were abducted and disappeared while Citizens Emeka Ngonadi, Akudinobi Ogochukwu suffered same fate in Orlu LGA.

Three Bus-Loads Of Arrested Unarmed Citizens Transferred To Abuja FCIB Not Accounted For

There were at least three bus-loads of the arrested unarmed citizens, arrested by Police IRT squads in Imo State and transferred to the Nigeria Police Force Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (Abattoir), Abuja, from where they have not been located or accounted for till date. They were arrested between Jan and July 2021 in various locations in Imo State and falsely labeled “ESN/IPOB/Unknown Gunmen” or “IPOB/ESN Members’ girlfriends/brothers/sisters/parents/in-laws/friends/supporters and bundled to Nigeria security headquarters including Police FCIB, FCID, Army and DSS Headquarters in Abuja from where they have not been located alive till date. Among the abducted and disappeared unarmed citizens were 24 names sighted by some Abuja FCIB detainees during one of the visitations by some officials of the Red Cross. Among the names in the Red Cross list recognized by the detainees, now freed, were slain Synagogue Pastor Cletus Egole and his younger brother, Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole. The RC officials were on secret investigation and identification mission during which the two names and others were identified by the detainees as their missing cellmates at Owerri Tiger Base and Abuja FCIB Abattoir.

Intersociety had in the course of its research and investigation leading to this special research and investigative report, interviewed scores of freed detainees from the NPF Abattoir in Abuja and Tiger Base in Owerri and their testimonial accounts of what they went through in the hands of the FCIB detaining authorities in Owerri and Abuja were chilling, shocking, alarming and unheard of. This was to the extent that the detention facilities of the Police IRT (Owerri Tiger Base) and FCIB Abattoir (Abuja) were transformed into slaughtering arenas; recording hundreds of custodial killings. Synagogue Pastor Cletus Egole and Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole were among hundreds shot and killed in Police IRT custodies in Owerri and Abuja. While Pastor Cletus Egole was killed alongside estimated 57 others in

June 2021 (alone) in Police IRT, Abuja; Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole was killed in April 2021 alongside eleven others at a go at Owerri Police IRT Tiger Base. These are just to mention but a few.

Mothers Of Children Abducted And Young Pregnancies Terminated Out Of Torture At Police IRT

Among those arrested and arbitrarily detained during which they were severely tortured at the FCIB (Abattoir) of the Nigeria Police Force are scores of defenseless mothers of children and freshly engaged or married young females, out of which, at least two had their pregnancies terminated out of torture as well as their womanhood degraded and desecrated. They were abducted between January and June 2021 in different parts of Imo State especially Orlu and Owerri zones. They include:

Ifeyinwa Egole: She was running a successful maternity hospital when she was arrested by Police IRT from Tiger Base in Owerri on 13th Feb 2021. She was arrested alongside her husband, Synagogue Pastor Cletus Egole. After taken them to Police IRT Owerri Tiger Base, the arsonist police officers went back and threw petrol bombs on her maternity, her husband church and their family home and burned them to ashes. Not done, they located her husband's immediate younger brother, Eugene and made him to disappear. Crime leveled against the Egoles was that their first son was a "member of IPOB". Police also labeled them "IPOB family" and their Synagogue Church as "IPOB training camp". The Police IRT under the Force Bureau of Intelligence also killed her husband (Cletus) in custody at Abattoir in Abuja in June 2021. The Police IRT had earlier lured her husband's youngest brother, Pentecostal Pastor Chinedu Egole, who was based in Port Harcourt, to "come and bail his innocent eldest brother in Abuja"; only to be abducted and dumped at Imo Police IRT Tiger Base, Owerri where he was also killed in custody in May 2021 after his arrest in April 2021. Madam Ifeyinwa Egole remained in Police IRT custody in Abuja without trial till June 2022; a period of a year and four months, when she was granted court bail. She was also tortured mercilessly.

Maria Ezediaru: She was arrested by Police IRT in Owerri on 25th Feb 2021, tortured, degraded and held for a year and three months at Abattoir, Force Intelligence Bureau of the Nigeria Police Force, Abuja. She was granted court bail in May 2022. Madam Ezediaru, a respected mother of children, is a certified Nurse in Owerri where she was based before being arrested by the Police for "taking food and medicine to detained "IPOB members".

Melody Anyanwu and Oluchi Mmadumere: They were 22 years of age when they were respectively arrested by Police IRT in Owerri, Imo State. Melody was arrested on 21st May 2021 alongside her father, 62 years-old Linus Anyanwu and Georgina Obiajuru, her fiancé's relative and they were thrown into detention where her father was tortured to death weeks after. Melody was accused of "being a girlfriend to a member of IPOB Member". Her four months old pregnancy was lost as a result of torture inflicted on her. She was transferred to Abattoir, Abuja where she was detained without trial till 8th Oct 2021 or a period of six months.

Oluchi Onwumere, on her part, was arrested on 25th May 2021 and held for over five months or till 8th Oct 2021. She was accused of being a "girlfriend to an IPOB member (Joseph)" who was arrested unarmed and killed extra-judicially on 6th June 2021. Oluchi was forced to point her father's house days after her arrest and moments after she did, the Police IRT squad threw petrol bombs and burned the house to ashes.

Ngozi Umeadi: She was a nursing mother with a newly delivered infant arrested by the Police on 16th Feb 2021 and detained at Police IRT, Abuja for a year and six months. Mrs. Umeadi, a respected mother of five and an Insurance worker was arrested and accused of "IPOB membership". She was severely tortured and held without trial from 16th Feb 2021 to 24th Oct 2022 when she was granted court bail. These are just to mention but a few.

Mrs. Ngozi Gladys Agboje (Ngozichukwu Ada-Dav): 52 years of age and married from Owerri North, Imo State. She was a victim of criminal labeling, torture, arbitrary arrest, solitary confinement and long detention without trial for ninety days by the personnel of the Intelligence Response Team (IRT) of the Nigeria Police Force for over ninety days, having been arrested on the 28th day of June 2021, as she was about fixing her car. She was accused of being close to 'Mama Biafra' and using her closeness to her to wire food money to "detained IPOB members". She was moved to FCIB (Abattoir), Abuja where she was severely tortured leading to fracturing of her legs and other internal injuries. She was turned into a conduit pipe and milked dry before being granted bail on 15th Sept 2021, coughing out not less than N4m as "bail fees".

Other victims of long detention and torture by the FCIB included **Madam Adaeze Akwaja and Pastor Ebele Lemoha and Uche Ekwuoha**, arrested between January and March 2021 and held arbitrarily and incommunicado at Abuja's former FSARS, now FCIB- IRT for several months.

Victims Of Open Shootings And Killings By Security Forces

From available statistics gathered by **the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety)**, no fewer than 800 unarmed and defenseless were killed by armed state actors in 24 months of January to December 2021 and January to December 2022 and between January and May 2023, not less than 100 defenseless citizens have been killed. The eight armed non state actor entities had also within the period killed not less than 700 defenseless others. The link to one of our reports highlighting the mass murders is here: <https://www.iconsnews.com/2022/07/over-800-people-have-been-killed-in-imo.html?m=1>. In the month of August 2021 alone, not less than 50 unarmed and defenseless citizens were killed in Imo State and the link to the statement is here: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/sunnewsonline.com/security-forces-killed-550-in-eight-months-disappeared-850-falsely-labeled-3400-in-south-east-intersociety/%3famp>. Among those shot and killed in broad day by security forces in Owerri and environs were Noel Nzeribe, a 38-Year-Old successful businessman who was gunned down by security forces on 30th April 2021 and Oguchi Unachukwu, a German-based businessman, shot and killed by Air Force personnel in Owerri on his way back to Germany. He was shot and killed on 31st May 2021.

Late Ifeanyi Emmanuel Obi (then 44 years of age) was a father of two, from Evor-Oguta in Oguta, Imo State and a shoe manufacturer at Ariaria International Market in Abia State. He was shot and killed by joint patrol team of police and soldiers on 6th June 2021 on his way back Aba after attending a funeral ceremony in her wife hometown of Orlu-Umuaka in Njaba, Imo State.

On 3rd June 2021, the then Catholic Archbishop of Owerri, Anthony Obinna, visited the FMC, Owerri where saw not less than 35 bodies of young males and females freshly shot and killed by security forces. He also visited the Owerri Correctional Center (Prisons) and saw hundreds freshly remanded. The Amnesty International had also issued a statement, saying that "it had documented at least 115 (unarmed) citizens killed by security forces in Imo State between March and July 2021". For more details, see the link to the Premium Times special features on Imo killings, published on 22nd March 2022: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-east/518681-special-report->

[inside-nigerias-bloody-war-with-ipob-where-innocent-citizens-pay-heavy-price.html?tztc=1](https://www.inside-nigerias-bloody-war-with-ipob-where-innocent-citizens-pay-heavy-price.html?tztc=1)

Slain Victims Of Ebubeagu Government Militias And Allied Others

Killing of Seven Returning Wedding Guests: Chigozie Obinwa, Ozioma, Chikere Anyadioha, Ifechi Ekesinachi, Emeka Ekesinachi, Aboy Ihegboro and Chijindu; all indigenes of Otulu in Oru East Local Government Area of Imo State. They were shot and killed Awomama in neighboring Oru West LGA on July 17, 2023 by Ebubeagu Government Militia. **Killing of Lieutenant, P.P. Johnson** from Aku Ihube, Okigwe on December 17, 2022 by Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. **Killing of Mba Ifeoma Gloria and Eremezie Tochukwu Martin** on January 18, 2023 at Arondizuogu in Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo State by Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. **Killing of the Traditional Ruler of Obudi Agwa** in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State, HRH Eze (Dr) Ignatius Asor and his two Palace staff on November 16, 2022 by Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. **Killing of Tobechei** Chigbu, a Sharwama maker at Amakohia Flyover on April 30, 2022 by Ebubeagu Government militias. **Killing of Customary Court Judge Nnaemeka Ugboma;** Chairperson of the Customary Court in Ejemekwuru, Oguta LGA of Imo State on February 3, 2023 by Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. **Killing of automobile Mechanic Okolie Aloysius** at Okporo Orlu on August 2, 2021 by Ebubeagu Government militias.

Killing and beheading of Jonathan Ugochukwu at Okporo Orlu on August 9, 2022 by Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. **Killing of an Orlu based Lawyer, Darlington Odume** at Amaifeke, Orlu on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 by Government Ebubeagu militias or allied others. **Killing of five persons** from the same family at Umuebele-Okporo in Orlu Local Government Area of Imo State on June 18, 2022 by Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. **Killing of the Traditional Rulers of Ihibinaowerre, HRH Eze Sampson Osunwa and Okwudor, HRH Eze Anayochukwu Durueburuo** in Njaba LGA on October 19, 2021 by Ebubeagu Government militias or allied others. Other reports of late night or broad day abductions, shooting and killing at sight, torture, disappearances, property seizures/confiscations and house burnings by Ebubeagu Government militias and allied others in the past 29 months or January 2021 to May 2023 are also in torrents.

In 29 Months, Armed State Actors Burned Down 1,200 Houses Valued At N60B In Imo State

It has been investigated and found that in 29 months or January 2021 to May 2023, the drafted security forces in Imo State burned down or irreparably destroyed not less than 1,200 civilian houses and other essential properties valued at N60b; on average of N50m per burned down house and associated household properties. Other essential properties affected by the state actor arsonist attacks are trading or market stalls stocked with goods, heavy-duty vehicles (i.e. lorries and trailers) conveying goods, religious sanctuaries and symbols as well as commercial and private automobiles. It was also found that all the houses and other essential properties burned down or irreparably destroyed have nothing to do with "military necessity".

It must be recalled that the Nigerian security agencies have since 2015 adopted the atrocious act of unleashing property violence against civilian population ('domicide') by attacking, burning or destroying them beyond repair. The atrocious act of burning of civilian properties is internationally classified and criminalized under the "offense of mala in se" and Laws of Armed Conflict or 'Geneva Conventions of 1949. Properties belonging to civilians especially dwelling houses and religious sanctuaries are exempted in law enforcement operations or in the course of criminal investigations and finding enquiries. Under Nigeria's body of law, investigative and judicial powers are granted to investigative law enforcement officers and judicial officers to restrict movements into civilian properties reasonably suspected to have been used in perpetration of criminal offenses of grievous nature pending the conclusion of such

investigations. Judicial officers are also empowered to put such properties including buildings under temporary seizure pending the outcome of ordered criminal investigation or enquiry. Contrarily, these outlined processes and procedures have been observed in gross breach in Nigeria.

The houses and properties attacked or burned down by armed non state actors within the same period in Imo State are estimated at N10b including military and policing movable and immovable properties. The armed non state actor property violence is also identified to have four dimensions and directions of attack: property violence by violent agitators targeting Government and security facilities (i.e. policing and military vans and immovable facilities); property violence by counterfeit violent agitators in order to counterfeit the activities of the mainstream agitators; property violence by “Government Unknown Gunmen” in order to counterfeit the activities of the mainstream agitators so as to have them criminalized and stigmatized; and property violence by private armies and hardened street criminal gangs for purposes of counterfeiting the activities of the mainstream and the counterfeit agitators in order to divert and distract the security and intelligence agencies and escape from their prying eyes; all done for illicit monetary profiting. Cases also sufficiently abound where armed state actors especially policing and military operational and special squads camouflaged as “Unknown Gunmen” to set houses and heavy duty Lorries loaded with goods ablaze so as to have the dastardly acts blamed on “IPOB/ESN hoodlums”. Such dastardly and despicable acts are perpetrated in furtherance of ethno-religious bigotry policing and soldiering and have been reported at Mgbidi (Imo State), Elele and Port Harcourt (Rivers State) and Nsukka (Enugu State), etc.

The Worst ‘Domicide’ Affected Imo LGAs/Communities

Not less than 80 Imo communities spreading across at least 20 of Imo State’s 27 LGAs represent the worst affected by the indiscriminate and unchecked civilian house burnings and other essential property destructions in the State in the past 29 months or January 2021 to May 2023; out of which Orlu and Orsu Local Government Areas are the most deadly hit or affected. **Intersociety** had in early 2022 launched field trip investigations into the civilian house burnings and associated attacks in Imo State and adopted Orsu (Orsu-Ihiteukwa, Ihitenasaa and Eziawa) and Orlu Local Government Areas as our study. The findings made led to the release of our international documentary on Imo house and property burnings on 18th July 2022. **Intersociety** had obtained a credible report that on 26th Jan 2022, some dwelling houses belonging to defenseless citizens of Akama-Na-Nansa of Ihitenasaa in Orsu Local Government Area of Imo State had been burned down or destroyed or irreparably vandalized. Among them was the Palace (Obi Ohazulume) of the Traditional Ruler of the Community; ransacked and vandalized by soldiers of the 34 Artillery Brigade, Obinze in Imo State, claiming that the Palace was an “IPOB/ESN hideout/training camp”. The Palace was in a verge of being burned to ashes when the leader of the Army squad, a Northern Muslim Captain who broke one of the rooms, saw a business card of the Prince/first son of the recently departed paramount ruler, who is also a practicing lawyer based in Abuja. The arsonist soldiers hurriedly left the Palace after speaking with the Prince (Barr Agugoesi).

On 31st January 2022, the Communities of Orsu-Ihiteukwa and Eziawa were attacked by arsonist soldiers and Ebubeagu militias during which over 70 houses were burned down. The house burnings, indiscriminate shootings and killings also affected Communities of Amalulu, Umuhu-Okabia in series of house burnings by soldiers and Ebubeagu Government militias on Monday 14th February 2022 as well as Amiri in Oru East LGA, Awomama in Oru East LGA and Ahiazu-Mbaise; burning down or destroying or irreparably vandalizing over 100 civilian houses. The 31st January 2022 attacks had commenced at Eziawa between 3pm and 3.30pm and between 11am and 11.30am. The soldiers and Ebubeagu Government militias’ attacks were accompanied by massive looting of essential household properties and large cash sums. The properties looted included domestic animals, electronics, power generators, kitchen utensils, economic crops such as tubers of yam, bunches of plantain and gallons of red oil; automobiles, motorcycles, large sums of money, etc.

Video Clips/Photos Obtained From Orsu-Ihiteukwa Community:

- Location: Umugwu Kindred, Udah Village, Orsu-Ihiteukwa
Video 1 (A and B): Family House of Ugwudike burnt down to ashes on 31st January 2022 by soldiers of the 34 Brigade, Obinze (near Owerri). An uncle to the owner of the House was also shot at his spinal cord region. Properties Looted: Set of newly procured sitting room executive chairs (one 3-in-one, two 2-in-one and three singles), six sets of 'Moka Forms', three motorcycles, two standing fans, one big bag of rice, 48 pieces of wrappers of assorted expensive types, four sets of big ironsmith pots, ten sets of big plastic coolers and six medium types, cash of N290,000, two sets of sewing machines, three bunches of plantain, one big goat, one set of big power generator, etc. A prominent member of the Family who is an Onitsha based millionaire told Intersociety that most of the items were procured in readiness for one of their daughters' coming marriage.
Two other houses belonging to the Family were also set ablaze. In the video, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Houses in the video are the same.
- Video 2: Location: Same area as above named. Owner: Mathias Nwobi, with a fresh grave of his newly buried wife. House looted and burnt down.
- Video 3: Owner: Widow Christiana Nwokeji: Vandalized and destroyed.
- Video 4: Sunday Omisi Family House. Properties looted and windows and doors smashed and destroyed.
- Video 5: Family House of Obiakonwa. Properties looted and the house destroyed and burnt down.
- Video 6: Family House of Joshua Ekwereogu. Wife freshly buried. The house had its valuable properties including farm crops looted before being set ablaze and burnt.
- Video 7: Family House of Madam Monica Nwaenyi-built for her as a poor widow by a philanthropist. The house was burnt down and the widow's money and other valuable items stolen.
- Video 8: Family House of Michael Ezeburue. Set ablaze and burnt down with goats and other valuable properties stolen.
- Video 9: House of Madam Evelyn Nwokeji-burnt to ashes.
- Video10: House of Chinedu Nwokeji-half burnt and destroyed.
- Video 11: Family House of Innocent Ekwereogu-house and properties burnt down
- Video 12: House of Ignatius Ohachusim-badly damaged and partly destroyed
- Video 13: House of Donatus Amuzie-badly damaged and partly destroyed
- Video 14: House of Hyacinth Ohachusim: Looted Items: power generator, second hand iron tools (akpakara), huge cash sums and other valuable properties. House vandalized.
- Video 15: House of Sunday Alaeto-destroyed and partly burnt
- Video 16: House of Christian Amuzie-windows smashed and other properties destroyed
- Video 17: House of Late Hilary Amuzie-damaged and partly destroyed
- Video 18: House of Solomon Ngoka: properties looted and house destroyed
- Video 19: House of Olivia Ngoka, a widow-money and other valuables stolen and house ransacked
- Video 20: House of Joseph Amuzie-properties looted and house destroyed.
- Video 21: House of Late Michael Amuzie-same as above
- Video 22: House of Timothy Onyeneche. The owner spoke to Intersociety and disclosed that he lost to the invaders and arsonists in uniform who stormed around 11.30am two sets of Android Phones, a set of power generator, a big bunch of plantain, gas cooker and smashed his house windows and other fixtures.
- Video 23: House of unnamed owner-properties looted and house damaged.
- Video 24: House of Chuma Peter Ngoka-lost N50,000 to invaders who also broke house windows and destroyed his motorcycle
- Video 25: Family House of Benedict Alaeto-properties massively looted including assorted drinks, huge cash sums, packs of cigarettes and several other valuables. The House was set ablaze and burnt down including chairs, ceiling fans, power generators, gas cookers, etc

- Video 26: House of Elder Simeon Iheanacho-his power generator, sets of bed and other valuables looted or stolen and house vandalized
- Video 27: House of Gregory Anaeto-house badly damaged and items like power generator, refrigerators, other electronics and valuable items looted or stolen

Eziawa Community:

- Video 28 (A and B): Three Houses of Nze Tobias Obi Family; a 67 years old father and grandfather of many children and a respected leader in the Laity Council of the Catholic Church and a native of Akama Village in Eziawa Autonomous Community, Orsu LGA, Imo State. Their three houses including his own house, that of his father which also houses their sales store and the newly built one were all burnt to ashes at about 3.30pm upward on 31st January 2022 by soldiers of the 34 Brigade Obinze in Imo State and Ebubeagu militias. Properties worth millions of naira were also looted or burnt to ashes. Apart from losing cash of N1.8M to the arsonist soldiers, other valuable items lost included four television sets, 40 pieces of expensive 'abada' clothes, 40 pieces of new plastic chairs, four sets of 4 by 6 foam and two 6 by 6 foam, three bunches of plantain, five big ironsmith pots and four medium sizes, sets of breakable plates, etc were looted. Three motorcycles, three goats, yam barn, etc were all burnt to ashes together with the Family House. Out of the N1.8M stolen by soldiers and their accompanied militias, N400, 000 belonged to Nze Tobias Obi's wife (Juliana) being sales made from their bar. The remaining N1.4M was realized from different church and kindred groups which Nze Obi serves as either Treasurer or Financial Secretary. The reason for setting civilian homes ablaze at Eziawa was that "a masquerade was sighted in the area by Army's planted informants as being partly clothed with Biafra color".
- Video 29: Family House of Mr. CY Cyril or Cyprain (videoed here going up in flames). The owner of the House was a successful breeder of pigs and other domestic animals. The arsonist soldiers and Ebubeagu militias had during their arsonist attack opened fire killing three of the pigs on the spot and took away the biggest among them. They also made away with a cash of N6M realized from sales. Some civilian houses were also reported to have been set on fire at Amaokpara part of Eziawa including properties belonging to Citizen Nath Okwara.

At Michael Ihiekwume's house in Akama-Eziawa, five bunches of plantain, large sums of money and other valuable items were stolen or looted; likewise Sunday Obileme's House where his motorcycle was burnt and cash and other valuables stolen or looted. At Late Ruben Kurume's House, it was nearly burnt down by the arsonists who were forced to stop by his aged wife (Ngozi) who threw herself into the house and asked them to burn her alive with the house. The houses of Lambert Igwilo and Vincent Obi were also visited and their valuable properties looted and their houses seriously damaged.

Ihitenansa (Akama-Na-Nansa Autonomous Community):

- Video 30: House of Umeogonu. The owner of the House was chased inside one of the houses by soldiers and Ebubeagu militias on Wednesday, 26th January 2022 and burnt alive until he died. The three buildings belonging to the Family and their car and other valuable properties were all burnt to ashes. His burnt body pieces were later gathered by his kindred and buried by the corner of one of his houses. His wife had died not too long ago and was buried on 28th Oct 2020.
- Video 31: House of Umeobieri's House. Two buildings burnt and one burnt to ashes and valuable properties looted
- Video 32: House of unnamed owner burnt to ashes by soldiers and Ebubeagu militias.
- Video 33: House of Augustine Dara-Anyaeji. Three buildings belonging to the Family were burnt to ashes and all their valuable properties including domestic animals, electronics, power generators, etc looted or stolen.
- Video 34: House of Umeaku Family near a market square was completely burnt down together with their sales store and valuable items were carted away.
- Video 35 (A and B): Palace of the Traditional Ruler (Eze) of Akama-Na-Nansa Autonomous under Ihitenansa in Orsu LGA, Imo State. The Palace (Obi Ohazulume) was desecrated, ransacked, vandalized and its fixtures and removable expensive properties destroyed or pillaged.

- **Video 36: Obi's Family House.** Two buildings burnt down with other properties including motorcycles, electronics, etc.
- **Video 37: Three civilian houses of questionably labeled "ESN Members",** captured in this video were set ablaze on Sat, 12th Feb 2022 by soldiers and Ebubeagu militias in Umuonyeuka Ihiteafoukwu in Ahiazu-Mbaise LGA. Other civilian houses were also set ablaze and burnt down same day in Akponkume, Ahiazu, Mbaise LGA, Imo State.

How Soldiers Vandalized And Looted The Palace Of Eze Agugoesi In Ihitenasaa

According to first son of the Traditional Ruler of Akama-NaNansa Autonomous Community under Ihitenansa, Prince Barr Victor Agugoesi who spoke to Intersociety on phone on Tuesday, 15th Feb 2022 at about 5.55am, the leader of the Army team (from 34 Brigade, Obinze), a northerner, called him while the attack on his Father's Palace was going on, on 26th January 2022 and said they just broke into one of the rooms and saw his professional card and phone number and decided to call him and stop the burning down of the Palace because they discovered that he is a lawyer. The Army team leader also told the Prince that they invaded the Palace because they suspected it to be IPOB camp and by the time they discovered otherwise, the damage had been done and that he should take what happened as he sees it. Prince Barr Agugoesi who is an Abuja based legal practitioner told Intersociety that his Father's Palace was desecrated, ransacked and irreparably vandalized and nearly burned to ashes and that all valuable properties in the Palace including eight sets of television, expensive electronics and so on were either burned to ashes or damaged or looted. The Army team leader also informed the Prince that they noticed that his Father, Eze Agugoesi was freshly interred (having joined his ancestors) and that by the time they discovered all these, the damage was already done.

900 Houses Lost In Imo In Jan 2021-Oct 2022 And 300 Others In Nov 2022-May 2023

A total of 900 civilian houses were lost to state actor arsonists, vandals and looters between Jan 2021 and Oct 2022; and between Nov 2022 and May 2023, additional 300 others have been lost. House burnings and destruction or looting of other essential properties by various military and police crack or operational squads have been reported in various Imo communities in Orlu, Orsu (including Umuhu-Okabia, Ihitenasaa, Eziawa, Orsu-Ihiteukwa), Ihube Okigwe, Arondizogu and Akokwa. Others are communities or villages in Izombe, Enyigugu and other parts of Ahiazu-Mbaise and Ezinifite-Mbaise. Others are those of Oru East, Oru West, Mbaitoli, Ngor-Okpala, Oguta, Ohaji/Egbema, Owerri Municipal, Owerri North, Owerri West, Onuimo, Njaba, Isu, Nwangele and Nkwere.

Our International Documentary On Military And Police House Burnings In Imo/South-East

For more details, see the link to our international documentary released on 18th July 2022: <https://youtu.be/RehqzLpkjeQ>

Impunity Ruled And Hardened Perpetrators In Imo

Armed state actors and armed non state actors perpetrating and perpetuating Imo mass murders and civilian property burnings and other internationally prohibited acts have been hardened by impunity fueled by Nigerian Government's conspiracy, omission, 'inability and unwillingness' to act, which have also brought about 'repeat-offenses' and further escalation of the mass murders and other atrocious acts. By the fundamental provisions of International Law, Nigerian Government is obligated to hold perpetrators of local and international heinous crimes (i.e. crimes against humanity, war crimes or crimes of genocide and other internationally prohibited acts or conducts) accountable by way of detailed criminal investigation, identification and diligent prosecution of the state actor perpetrators and non state actor others.

Intersociety Is A Pacifist And Anti Violence

It must be clearly pointed out that **Intersociety** does not support outlawed violence, whether perpetrated by state actors or non state actors. What deeply concerns us is the reckless abandon with which the country's security forces are killing defenseless citizens and falsely labeling them as "members

of a criminal class” and impunity with which such heinous crimes are being perpetrated leading to ‘repeat-perpetration’ and ‘repeat-offenses’ by the perpetrators and their sponsors.

Muslim Domination And Radical Ethnicity In Security Forces As Driving Force In Imo Mass Murders

The present composition of the country’s security forces and their commanding positions is also nothing to write home about. Such lopsided and imbalanced composition, in addition to radical ethnicity and chronic professional incompetence, has fueled and heightened the massacre of defenseless civilians and burning down or wanton destruction of defenseless properties and perpetration of other internationally prohibited conducts or acts in Imo State and the South-East. It is therefore the grand finding of **the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law** that Imo mass murders, civilian house burnings and other internationally prohibited acts or conducts are clearly heinous crimes against defenseless persons and properties-amounting to crimes against humanity or war crimes or both; having been perpetrated outside the law and internationally standardized norms.

Key Perpetrators Of Imo Mass Murders And Civilian House Burnings (Jan 2021-May 2023)

Gov Hope Uzodinma, Gov of Imo State and funder/general overseer, Ebubeagu Government Militias of Imo State, the Imo State Commissioners of Justice/Attorneys General and Information as well as the Special Adviser to Gov Hope Uzodinma on Security since January 2021 till date. Key security chiefs involved as at 2021/2022 include: Major Gen Toareed Lagbaja (as he then was), GOC, 82 Division, Enugu (2021/2022), Brigadier Gen Raymond Utsaha (as he then was), Brigade Commander, 34 Brigade, Obinze near Owerri (2021/2022), Brig Gen M. Ibrahim (as he then was), Brigade Commander, 14 Brigade, Ohafia, Abia State (2021/2022), Col Abdulsalam Abubakar Sambo (as he then was), Cantonment Commandant, 302 Artillery Regiment, Onitsha (2021/2022), Major H. Ahmed (as he then was), Commanding Officer, Onitsha Cantonment Military Police (2021/2022), Navy Commodore SH Abdullahi (as he then was), Commander, Nigerian Navy School of Finance & Logistics, Owerrenta, Abia State (2021/2022), the Commanding Officers of 211 Regiment of the Nigerian Air Force, Owerri (2021-2023), DIG Tijani Baba (as he then was), DIG in charge of Force Bureau of Criminal Intelligence/Intelligence Response Teams (IRT, 2021/2022), CP Abutu Yaro (as he then was), Commissioner of Police, Imo State (2021/2022), SP Bala Elkan (as he then was), Imo State Police Command Public Relations Officer (2021/2022), AIG Habu Sani Ahmadu (as he then was), AIG-FCIB, Abuja (2021/2022), CP Sadiq Abubakar (as he then was), CP-IRT (2021/2022), DCP Adepoju Ilori (as he then was), DCP-IRT (2021/2022), DCP Kolo Yusuf (as he then was), DCP-IRT, Abuja (2021/2022), DCP Abba Kyari (as he then was), DCP-IRT, Abuja (2021/2022), DCP Tunde Disu (as he then was), DCP-IRT, Abuja (2021/2022), SUPOL Vincent Makinde (as he then was), one of the chief torturers at FCIB, Abuja; Inspector Ekwueme Daniel (as he then was), “General IPO in charge of Biafra Matters” at FCIB, Abuja, SUPOL Abbah (as he then was), “Biafra Matters’ Prosecutor” at FCIB, Abuja. Some of torturers/custodial executioners at Owerri Tiger Base of the Police IRT as at 2021/2022 included Officer Ndidi, Officer Nickolas, Officer Ola, Officer Utaba, Officer Uzor, Officer Bello, Officer Ebele and Officer Omimi. Those involved under 2022/2023 are *Major Gen Umar Musa, immediate past GOC 82 Division, Enugu, Major Gen Aminu Chinade, current GOC, 82 Division, Enugu, Brig Gen Sani Suleiman, 34 Brigade Commander, Obinze, Brig Gen Adegoke Adetuyi, 14 Brigade Commander, Ohafia, Col M.B. Abubakar, Commander, 302 Artillery, Onitsha, AIG Abutu Yaro (repeat-perpetrator), DIG Sadiq Bello, DIG-FIB or FCIB, Abuja, AIG-Zone 13 Awka, AIG Shuaya’u Lafia Abdulyari, AIG-FCIB, and CP Mohammed Ahmed Barde, Commissioner of Police, Imo State.*

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