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Course: Peace and conflict

Department/college: Law

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Assignment: Write an essay on violent conflict on the geopolitical zone you're from... not less than 2 pages...

Anambra is a [state](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_of_Nigeria) in southeastern part of [Nigeria](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria). The capital and seat of government is [Awka](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Awka). Nigeria is bedevilled by challenges that lead to many avoidable losses to lives and properties. One of these worrisome challenges is violent conflicts. An example of violent conflict in the southern east is the killing of peaceful IPOB protesters in onitsha by the soldiers in 2015- 2016.

The 2015–2016 Killing of Biafran Protesters refers to the killing of demonstrators demanding the restoration of the sovereignty of the [Republic of Biafra](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Biafra) by Nigerian security forces, especially the [Nigerian army](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Army), across the [southeastern](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igboland) parts of [Nigeria](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria). The Nigerian security forces, led by the military, embarked on a chilling campaign of extrajudicial executions and violence resulting in the deaths of at least 150 peaceful pro-Biafra protesters in the south east of the country.

By far the largest number of pro-Biafra activists were killed on Biafra Remembrance Day on 30 May 2016 when an estimated 1,000 IPOB members and supporters gathered for a rally in Onitsha, Anambra State. The night before the rally, the security forces raided homes and a church where IPOB members were sleeping. On Remembrance Day itself, the security forces shot people in several locations.

The leadership of IPOB claim more than 50 of their members were killed. The Nigerian army has said in a statement that they acted in self-defence, and five IPOB members were killed. However, there has seen no evidence that the killings were necessary to protect life. Although the police also claim that IPOB supporters killed two policemen the next day in neighbouring Asaba, Delta state, no evidence could confirm this claim. However, such killings would not substantiate the army’s argument they acted in self-defence.

A joint security operation was carried out by the Nigerian army, police and navy between the night of 29 May and throughout 30May, apparently intended to prevent a march by IPOB members from the Nkpor motor park to a nearby field for a rally. Before the march began the military raided homes and a church where IPOB members were sleeping. IPOB supporters told Amnesty International that hundreds of people who had come from neighbouring states, were asleep in the St Edmunds Catholic church when soldiers stormed the compound on 29 May. It was said many of those killed or injured are werel held by the military and police. Several witnesses said that the military loaded corpses in their vehicles and took them to Onitsha military barracks.

Amnesty International conducted research into violence and killings of IPOB members and supporters in south east Nigeria. The organization’s research shows that since August 2015, there have been at least five similar incidents in Onitsha alone where the police and military shot unarmed IPOB members and supporters. Amnesty International has documented cases of alleged unlawful killings by the Nigerian army between August 2015 and May 2016.

Despite several overwhelming evidence that the Nigerian security forces committed gross human rights violations including extrajudicial executions and torture, no investigations were carried out by the authorities. It is sad that the Nigerian government has not conducted any independent investigation into any of these incidents.