

News

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Police gun down suspected kidnap kingpin in Delta, recover AK-47, other firearms



The Delta State Police Command has confirmed the death of a suspected kidnapping kingpin, Liberty Kunu, following a fierce gun battle with police operatives during a recovery operation that also led to the seizure of an AK-47 rifle and other firearms.

The Commissioner of Police, Delta State Command, CP Aina Adesola, revealed this during a press briefing at the Command's headquarters in Asaba yesterday.

The CP said sequel to a series of complaints bordering on kidnapping, abduction, and other violent crimes linked to one Liberty Kunu, popularly known as Commander Liberty or Double Agent, and his gang, he directed the Divisional Police Officer, Sapele, to deploy all available operatives to unravel the group's activities.

CP Adesola said on January 17, 2026, the Command received a report on the abduction of three persons (names withheld) at Boyo Road Junction, Sapele.

He said while being taken to a bush location, one of the victims escaped and reported at a nearby police station, noting that the remaining two victims were dispossessed of valuables worth ₦9 million.

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The CP said preliminary investigation revealed that the crime was carried out by a syndicate led by Liberty Kunu, who operated under the guise of a security volunteer group (SOS).

He said: "Acting swiftly on this intelligence, operatives of the CP–Special Assignment Team (CP-SAT), in collaboration with officers of Sapele Division, arrested Liberty Kunu and members of his gang, including Twale Golly (33), Michael Kunu (25), Israel Ugwu (30), Ogaga Power (43), and Mercy Kunu (28).

"During the operation, five pump-action guns, one Beretta pistol, and other criminal accoutrements were recovered.

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"Further investigation revealed that Liberty Kunu was a member of the Aye Confraternity and was also in possession of an AK-47 rifle.

"Upon confrontation, he confessed and, at about 2335 hours on 28 January 2026, led CP-SAT operatives to his hideout in Ibada-Elume community.

"At the location, one AK-47 rifle and one locally fabricated revolver were recovered from the forest."

However, CP Adesola said while the team was retreating and had reached the Ibada-Elume Express Road, they were ambushed by armed hoodlums suspected to be members of the gang, who attempted to rescue the suspect.

He said a fierce gun battle ensued for over ten (10) minutes and the attackers were overpowered and had to flee with bullet wounds, while the police operational vehicle was riddled with bullets.

He further said: "During the exchange, Liberty Kunu and some police operatives sustained gunshot injuries and were rushed to the hospital. Liberty Kunu was confirmed dead on arrival, and his remains were deposited at the General Hospital, Sapele.

"Other arrested members of the gang remain in custody as investigations continue."