

Four kidnap-suspects killed in Lagos



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Operatives of the **Lagos State** Police Command Special Squad 1 have killed four suspected kidnappers during a gun battle following a failed attempt to abduct a businessman in Ejigbo.

The operation, which took place around 11pm at Jakande Estate Gate, last Sunday, also led to the recovery of firearms, ammunition and vehicles allegedly linked to the gang.

Residents and traders around the area were thrown into panic as gunshots rented the air for several minutes, forcing many to flee for safety.

A reporter, who refused to be named, said he heard the gunshots from his residence at Oke-Afa, adding that they were wondering what was going on.

Police sources said the operation followed an intelligence report that a kidnapping syndicate planned to abduct a businessman around 9:30pm, near the Estate gate.

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A senior police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the intelligence was received by the Commissioner of Police, Fatai Tijani, prompting operatives to be deployed to the area for surveillance.

According to the source, the suspected gang leader, identified simply as Ifeanyi, popularly known as “Ifeko,” was allegedly linked to previous kidnappings in Lagos.

The officer further alleged that the suspect had ties to Henry Asoona, said to have led a notorious kidnapping gang whose members were killed during a police operation at the Ladipo International Spare Parts Market in 2024.

Police said the suspects opened fire after sighting the operatives, leading to a fierce exchange.

“The gang sighted the police and immediately opened fire, but the operatives responded with superior firepower. At the end of the gun duel, four suspected kidnappers were neutralised while another escaped with gunshot wounds,” the source said.

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During the operation, a police inspector attached to the squad sustained a gunshot wound on his left leg. He was taken to the Police College Hospital, Ikeja, for treatment.

Items recovered from the scene, it was gathered, included a Toyota Sienna vehicle, an AK-47 rifle with two magazines loaded with 25 rounds of live ammunition, a submachine gun with a magazine containing 12 rounds of ammunition, as well as Toyota Corolla and Lexus vehicle keys.

Police authorities said efforts were ongoing to arrest the fleeing suspect and other members of the gang.

Tijani confirmed the incident but did not give details.

“I am aware of the incident. I will call you back as I am at present in a meeting,” he said.

Meanwhile, the command has inaugurated a special tactical outfit known as the “Command Sweepers Squad,” in response to residents’ concerns over rising criminal activities in parts of Ikorodu and adjoining communities.

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Tijani said the squad was created as a temporary intervention measure to combat growing insecurity, restore public confidence and strengthen rapid response operations across the axis.

A statement by the spokesperson for the police command, Superintendent of Police Abimbola Adebisi, said the outfit comprised personnel drawn from tactical units like the Rapid Response Squad (RRS), Eko Strike Force, 2 PMF, 22 PMF and 63 PMF, alongside other security agencies and members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF).

According to the command, the squad has been stationed in Ijede for quick deployment across Ikorodu and surrounding communities and equipped with patrol vehicles and three Armoured Personnel Carriers donated by the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF).

Police said operatives have been deployed to identified black spots and criminal hideouts for intelligence-led raids, stop-and-search duties and patrols aimed at flushing out criminal elements, while assuring residents that operations would be conducted professionally and in line with the rule of law.