

Four killed as Police arrest teenage robbery suspect in Delta

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Four members of a deadly armed robbery, murder and rape syndicate have met their deaths and a teenage robbery suspect arrested in separate anti-crime operations carried out by the Delta State Police Command within the Ughelli axis.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Police Public Relations Officer, SP Bright Edafe, said the breakthroughs were achieved under the “strategic leadership” of the Commissioner of Police, CP Olufemi Abaniwonda, who has intensified efforts to rid the State of violent criminal elements.

According to the release, operatives of the CP-Special Assignment Team (CP-SAT) stormed a criminal hideout along the outskirts of Panama Layout, Ughelli, on 19th November at about 8:30 p.m., acting on credible intelligence about a violent syndicate linked to multiple attacks in the area.

The suspects earlier arrested at the scene were: Peter Ejenekevwe, 31, a.k.a. Calamity (identified as the gang leader), Clever David, 35, Chukwuemeka Gospel Onuchukwu, 29, and Onome Collins, 32.

Interrogation reportedly led to their confession to the robbery and murder of one Anthony Igoroko Omowho on 11th November at Ekredjebor.

The suspects admitted to trailing the victim to Saint Nicholas Hospital, robbing nurses on duty and stabbing him fatally after robbing him and his wife.

They also confessed to robbing a POS operator and her husband the same day, during which the victim’s 18-year-old sister-in-law was assaulted.

A further search in the bush led to the recovery of two locally-made long guns, three locally-made short guns, 23 live cartridges, and two Lexus 350 Jeep keys, which helped trace and recover the vehicle belonging to the murdered victim.

However, while withdrawing from the bush, officers were ambushed by fleeing gang members.

The operatives repelled the attack, but the four arrested suspects were struck by bullets allegedly fired by their accomplices and were later pronounced dead at the General Hospital, Ughelli.

One police officer sustained injuries and is receiving treatment.

“The attack was successfully repelled with superior firepower,” the police stated.

Meanwhile, on 18th November, officers of the Agbarho Division arrested Victor Peculiar, a 19-year-old suspected to be part of a five-man gang that broke into a residence at Uvwiama New Layout around 3:00 a.m.

Two members of the gang reportedly entered the victim's bedroom while three others stood guard outside.

After the occupant attempted to defend himself with a machete, shots were fired through the window. A 43-inch Hisense television and other electronics were also damaged.

Upon receiving the report, DPO CSP Pius Eredei led a rapid-response team, working in collaboration with the Vigilante Group of Nigeria.

Their efforts led to Victor's arrest and the recovery of a locally fabricated double-barrelled short gun.

The suspect remains in police custody and has "made useful statements," according to the release.

Commissioner of Police, CP Olufemi Abaniwonda, described the operations as a testament to the Command's strengthened operational capacity and its zero tolerance for violent crime.

He appealed to residents to remain alert and report suspicious movements, assuring that "all credible information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality."