

Three suspected Abuja kidnapers killed

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A Nigerian policeman

By Johnson Idowu

The Federal Capital Territory Police Command says its operatives have neutralised three suspected kidnapers terrorising the ACO, Dupa, Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali areas of Abuja.

The command disclosed this in a statement on Monday by its Public Relations Officer, Josephine Adeh, noting that the suspects were killed during a gun duel that lasted for more than 30 minutes.

Adeh stated that the command had received intelligence about a planned attack on a community within the territory on Monday, December 1, with the intention of carrying out a large-scale kidnapping.

She explained that upon receiving the intelligence, the command deployed its Anti-Kidnapping Unit to the area, leading to the arrest of a suspect identified as Sani Mohammed Umar.

She said, “Acting swiftly on this intelligence, FCT Police operatives on 30 November 2025, at about 2:11 p.m., traced and arrested one of the key conspirators, a wanted kidnapper and armed robbery suspect named Sani Mohammed Umar, a.k.a. Boko. His mobile phone, suspected to be the primary device used in coordinating the criminal operations, was recovered from him.

“Investigations confirmed that the suspect belonged to the gang responsible for previous attacks and kidnappings in ACO and Dupa and Gwagwalada, as well as multiple armed robbery incidents across Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali.

“He also admitted that his gang members were waiting for him at Gada Biyu Hills, Kwali, where they had converged to commence their next planned community attack.”

She said that when operatives stormed the hideout, the suspects engaged them in a gun battle but were eventually overpowered. The shootout, according to Adeh, led to the death of three suspects.

She added that exhibits such as firearms and rounds of ammunition were recovered during the operation.

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Adeh continued, “On sighting the operatives, the heavily armed bandits opened fire. The Police responded decisively, engaging the criminals in a fierce 30-minute gun duel, during which three of the bandits were neutralised, while other gang members escaped with suspected gunshot wounds.

“Items recovered from the scene include three AK-47 rifles and three magazines containing 33 rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition.”

The PPRO concluded that a clearance operation involving the police and the military was ongoing to track down the fleeing suspects, while urging hospitals to report anyone presenting with gunshot wounds to the nearest security agency.

“Medical facilities across the area have been alerted to report any individual presenting with bullet wounds to the nearest security agency or contact the Command via 08032003913, 08061581938.

“The Commissioner of Police, FCT, commends the gallantry and professionalism of the Anti-Kidnapping Unit and appreciates the valuable intelligence provided by members of the public. He urges residents to remain vigilant and continue to supply timely information,” Adeh stressed.

The Nigerian Police Force has continued to clamp down on bandits and kidnapers in its quest to combat kidnapping and terrorism across the country.

PUNCH Metro reported on November 12 that the Kebbi State Police Command neutralised one suspected bandit and arrested three others in coordinated operations across Maiyama and Shanga Local Government Areas of the state.

The Command’s Public Relations Officer, CSP Nafiu Abubakar, had stated that the operations followed two separate attacks launched by armed bandits on residents in Botoro Gadi and Kwari communities.