

Imo police kill 2 kidnappers, rescue bank manager

By EMMA OGU, Owerri

IMO state police command yesterday displayed the bodies of two kidnappers shot dead at their hide out in Arondizuogu and rescued their victim Mr. Charles Isitua, the operations manager of Guarantee Trust Bank (GTB) for Okigwe branch of the bank.

The command while parading several other criminals in its net declared Nkwerre-born multi-millionaire, Ikechukwu Ewuzie alias IK Nwojiego as the most wanted criminal in the state.

According to the state police commissioner, Mr. Aloysius Okorie the two kidnappers and their gang members at large took the bank manager and his car to their hideout and when the police men on their trail, arrived the scene following a tip off, they opened fire on them during which they were gunned down in a cross fire.

The two kidnappers killed were identified as Emmanuel Okoronkwo and Chijioke Orji while their gang members on the run included Emeka Okorie, Chima and Igwe whose surnames were yet to be ascertained. Also arrested at their hideout and paraded at the command premises was a nursing mother, Veronica Ikwumere who hails from Arondizuogu and claimed to be a girl friend of a brother to one of the shot kidnappers.

Veronica who was weeping profusely, proclaiming her innocence in the crime said that she is also pregnant though she is not married.

IK Nwojiego who is said to own one of the best mansions in Amaorjiukwu Nkwerre Local Government specializes in bullion van robbery and kidnapping of highly placed personalities. His gang members who were arrested and paraded include Emeka Onwubu and Thomas Awa alias Wajo.

The police commissioner disclosed that they were responsible for the bank robbery at Zenith Bank on Wetheral road Owerri, UBA bank formerly Standard Trust Bank at Wetheral road and other serial bank robberies at Okigwe, Anara Mbano and Eke Ahiara junction in Mbaise.

The police boss further identified them as the gang that kidnapped Eze Festus Ohiri of Obi Orodu in Mbaitoli Local Government. Leader of

the gang Nwojiego according to the police commissioner reportedly disappeared into the ceiling of his house from where he opened fire on detectives of the command when they came to arrest him.

But he later escaped. "I can comfortably tell you that Ikechukwu Ewuzie a.k.a IK Nwojiego is the most wanted criminal in Imo state today. He has committed a lot of atrocities", he said. Meanwhile, the police boss confirmed

to journalists that President of the customary court of appeal, Hon Justice A.B.C Egu and wife of traditional ruler of Owerri Ugoeze Njemanze who were kidnapped together on their way to Ngor Okpala on a function were released on Friday evening by their captors. He however refused to comment on whether they paid ransom before their release.

Other notorious criminals arrested and paraded who specialized in armed robbery and rape were Henry Johnson

from Osioma Ngwa, Ikechukwu Uruaka alias virus and Mark Onyebuchi alias Double Dagga two of who claimed to be students of Federal Polytechnic Nekede Owerri while one of their colleagues simply identified as Pappy who is a student of Imo State University Owerri is still at large.

Several arms and ammunition and vehicles recovered from all the arrested criminals were also displayed at the command.

PHOTO SPLASH



Abia State Governor, Chief Inedore Orji exchanging pleasantries with Dim Chukwuemeka Uduemegwu Ujukwu (left) at the meeting of South East elders and leaders held at Imo Concord Hotel Owerri over the weekend



R-1: Dr. Alex Ekwueme, former Vice President for Federal Republic of Nigeria; President General Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Ambassador Ralph Uwchue and Dr. Joe Nwogu, former Secretary General Ohanaeze Ndigbo at a meeting of South East elders and leaders held at Imo Concorde Hotel Owerri over the weekend
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