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## General

# Police accuse militants of Abia robbery

By Nabob Ogbonna, Abakaliki | Publish Date: Nov 8 2015 11:44PM | Updated Date: Nov 9 2015 2:52AM

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Police in Ebonyi State have accused militants from the Ikoro-Uko area of Cross River State of being responsible for the Friday robbery incident in Afikpo town.

The hoodlums who killed a Police Inspector, it was gathered, were about 20 in number.

The command's Public Relations Officer, Mr George Okafor, while

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addressing newsmen in Abakaliki, noted that two speed boats, machine gun and other sophisticated weapons were used by the gang. "The hoodlums who I can call militants, came on two speed boats armed with several General Purpose Machine guns, grenades among other sophisticated weapons", he said.

The police spokesman added that the command is yet to confirm whether there was any casualty on the side of the hoodlums.

"When the militants noticed that the police cordoned off the entire area after receiving information from the people, they started shooting sporadically and we returned, repelling them in the process. The militants destroyed several shops belonging to people of the area and set ablaze ten motorcycles and a police van", he added.

He denied an earlier report that the hoodlums robbed several banks operating in the area and carted away huge sums of money.

"I want to say that the Commissioner of Police, Peace Abdallah, coordinated security efforts in the town by herself and we have deployed adequate security to guard the town. We therefore urge the people to go about their normal businesses without fear", he said.

Witnesses however insisted that the hoodlums attacked banks, carted away huge sums of money and abducted some people.

"We saw them running away with huge sums of money and staff of the banks can attest to that", a witness said.



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