

One killed, 7 rescued as security men battle kidnappers in Lagos creeks

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

~~One person was said to have been killed and seven others rescued as operatives of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) yesterday engaged suspected kidnappers in a gun battle at the creeks in the Iba area of Lagos.~~

The group said it recovered one locally made pistol, packs of cigarettes, a boat, life jackets and charms from the camp used by the kidnappers to keep the victims inside the creeks.

The Lagos State Deputy Commander of the VGN, Santos Ojo, told City News that the kidnappers tied their victims' hands and legs together to prevent them from running away.

It was gathered that the kidnappers had abducted seven men and two ladies along the LASU-Igando road and took them into the creeks where they kept them.

Ojo revealed that the kidnappers later dumped the two ladies along the road after collecting an undisclosed amount of money as ransom on them, but held on to the seven men.

He narrated that the VGN team got a distress call that some people had been abducted on Tuesday along the LASU-Igando road by a gang suspected to be kidnappers, adding that the informant said the victims were dragged into an awaiting canoe stationed at the foot of the bridge between Iba and Obadore.

He said he then deployed some of his men to the area based on the strength of the information. "When we got information about the incident, we first reported the matter to the police in the area. While some of my men approached the creek in a boat, I led others there through a wooden bridge linking small fishing communities in the area.

"On sighting us, the kidnappers opened fire. But during the exchange of gunfire, some of the suspects sustained injuries and fled from the area. We were able to rescue seven persons. We also recovered a locally-made pistol, a laptop suspected to belong to one of the victims, some expended cartridges, cigarettes, packs of hot drinks and charms," he said.