

Police kill six suspected robbers, parade 21 in C'River, Taraba

NO fewer than six suspected armed bandits were yesterday shot dead by a team of mobile policemen and a group of hunters in Mutum-Biyu, Gassol Local Council of Taraba State and in Cross River State, the police command paraded 21 suspected armed robbers, including an 11-year-old boy.

The gang's leader whose name was not disclosed and the alleged supplier of arms and ammunition were also arrested during an exchange of fire with security operatives.

Parading the two suspects and the deceased before reporters in Jalingo, Taraba State capital, Deputy Police

Commissioner, Ibrahim Abdul, noted that the hoodlums were among the numerous armed bandits terrorising Adamawa, Borno, Kano and Taraba states.

Items recovered from the suspects included two AK 47 Assault rifles, one G3 revolver pistol, 120 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition and many machetes and amulets.

Also speaking to reporters, the leader of the hunters who specialised in fishing out criminals, Alhaji Ali Kora, said he had been assisting the Police in hunting armed robbers in the last eight years.

Following the recent attack on the wife of the Taraba State Governor by bandits, he said Governor

*From Charles Akpeji,
Jalingo and Aniete Akpan,
Uyo*

Danbaba Suntai invited him and his team to the state to assist the police.

He added that he was encouraged by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua during his tenure as the Katsina State governor. "He was the first person to invite and give me financial assistance," he said.

Speaking to *The Guardian*, the leader of the gang said he had been an armed robber for several years and admitted that his team was behind many nefarious activities.

The police urged the public to volunteer information that

could assist in tracking down armed robbers.

The suspects in Cross River were arrested between July and August this year, the new Commissioner of Police, Mr. Innocent Ilozuoke said.

Briefing reporters yesterday at the state Police headquarters, Diamond Hill, Calabar, Ilozuoke said "one locally made double-barrel shot gun, 12 single barrel shot guns, seven machetes, two Nokia handsets, one Motorola handset, a torch and motor chargers, several charms and a cash of N50,085 have been recovered from the armed robbers."

He added that the arrests

followed recent increase in violent crimes within Calabar metropolis, and "my men swung into action to unravel the perpetrators of these crimes."

The Commissioner of Police, who had earlier served in the state as Area Commander at Akim Station, said five of the armed robbers led by one Louis Ita Nya, alias "chope" and "Akadon" of No. 7 Ekondo Street, were arrested in Calabar.

Another seven-man gang based in Nko Village in Yakurr Local Council, led by Sunday Innah Eteng, which had been terrorising motorists and passengers plying Calabar-Ikom Road

was also smashed by his men, he added.

Ilozuoke said: "In one of such robbery operations, which took place on 30th June, 2007 along Ikom-Calabar Highway by Ibiahe Palm Estate in Blase Council, Obeten Toyekoke, a final-year student of the Department of Educational Planning and Administration, UNICAL, shot and killed another female student of the University of Calabar, Miss Patience John Nniya, who happened to be a passenger in one of the vehicles he and his gang were robbing for fear of being identified by the female student who knew him."