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Bandits attack police chief's residence, kill two

From Simeon Nwakaudu, Makurdi

THE upsurge of armed robbery activities in Makurdi, Benue State capital, took a dramatic turn on Monday with the invasion of the residence of the Kogi State Police Commissioner, Mr. Ibe Aghanya. Two lives were lost in the incident.

The robbers had arrived the area around Ankpa Quarters in Makurdi at about 7.30 p.m., robbing from one residence to the other. The robbers, who came in a Peugeot 505 car according to residents, finally got to the home of Mr. Aghanya, where they attempted to gain entry.

Their attempt was resisted by the policemen on guard, leading to a fierce gun duel. At the end, a police constable and civilian in the home of the commissioner lay dead.

A son of the police commissioner said the robbers left when they could not gain entry.

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer of the Benue State Police Command, Samuel Jinadu, confirmed the incident, saying that the police had begun investigations into the matter.

Jinadu added that 10 mobile policemen have been drafted to the police commissioner's residence. Though serving in Kogi State, Aghanya has lived in Makurdi for the past three decades.

Despite the recent launch of the Joint Police and Military Security outfit by the Benue State government, armed robbers continued to prowl at night.

Last weekend, armed robbers struck at Amokachi Lane area of Makurdi for close to two hours, shooting sporadically without any response from the security outfits in the town.

As a self-help measure, many residents of Makurdi are reviving their vigilance groups.

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