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Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Police kill suspected robbers, arrest arms dealers in Taraba

From Charles Akpeji, Jalingo

THREE suspected armed robbers, among them a student of a tertiary institution of learning in Yola, Adamawa State, were in the early hours of yesterday shot dead during a gun battle with the police.

The victims, who were members of a five-man gang, according to the state Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Aliyu Musa, met their waterloo while trying to escape with the money and a Honda Civic car, which they robbed. He put the cash the hoodlums, who clashed with a police patrol teams in Lau Local Council, snatched from their victim at N100,000.

At the command headquarters yesterday, the Police Public Relations Officer, Sani Babaina, told The Guardian that the arrest was prompted by distressed call the police received immediately after the bandits struck.

He said the criminals carried out their heinous acts at about 2a.m. and were rounded up by men of patrol teams "working round the clock to ensure the security of life and property in the state."

Babaina said: "Today (yesterday) at about 2a.m., a distressed call was received by the surveillance teams attached to the area command that some armed robbers were operating at a residential area along Mile Six.

"The information made available to the surveillance teams about the hideout of the hoodlums after successfully dispossessing their victim of her belongings, helped the police to overwhelm the robbers."

After the crossfire between the police and the robbers, "three of them were killed on the spot while the remaining two were arrested but, with bullet wounds. Arms and ammunition were recovered from them," Babaina added.

Babaina also said the police had tracked down a "notorious" arms dealer in Wukari Local Council of the state.

The suspect, whom Babaina identified as Mohammed Abubakar, was arrested following a tip off by some residents of the area.

Weapons recovered from him are one machine gun with 55 rounds of ammunition, one general purpose machine gun, one rocket propeller machine gun, one machine gun, and two rocket launchers.

Others were "two M36 grenades, 867 rounds of 9 milimetre rifles, 767 rounds of 9.45 milimetre rifles, 667 rounds of 7.62 millimetre rifles,

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2,833 rounds of 5.56 millimetres, seven empty magazines of AK47 rifles, two empty chain machine gun magazines, two empty magazines of SMG rifles, one AK47 rifle with 18 rounds, one single barrel gun with 43 cartridge and over N1 million cash.

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