

Police kill five suspected robbers in Calabar shootout

By Editor

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The Cross River Police Command has killed five suspected armed robbers in Calabar South area of the state who engaged the police in a gun duel.

The bandits, who are said to belong to a gang that has been terrorising residents of Calabar metropolis, were killed in a gun duel shortly after robbing petrol stations at Atu and Target Street yesterday. The police also recovered some cash and three locally-made pistols from the suspected robbers.

According to an eyewitness, Mr. Eze Ugo, the hoodlums had successfully robbed a super market at Marian, and a petrol station at Atu and headed straight to Target to continue

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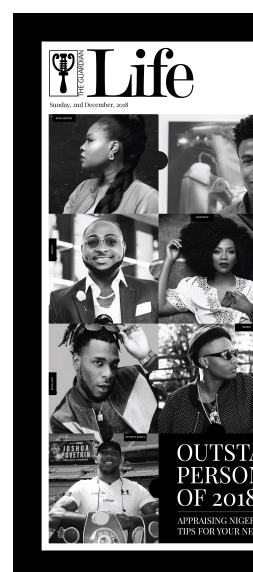
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South passing through Marian. The speed with which they drove forced a taxi-cab to ram into the INEC fence out of fear. Incidentally, that was when the army patrol van was driving out of the barracks. They also had witnessed the speed with which they drove. This forced the army men to pursue them shooting as they moved on. I am glad that all five robbers were shot dead after a sporadic shooting from both ends.”

Briefing newsmen on the incident at the Atakpa Police Station, the Commissioner of Police, Hafiz Inuwa, said the robbers invaded the filling station on Sunday morning. Inuwa said: “Some of these armed robbers are giving us problem in Calabar municipality. These set of robbers were caught up in a gun battle with the police shortly after they robbed a filling station in Atu area of Calabar South.

“They had a shoot-out with the police and our men were able to gun down five of them. These were the same gang that we already have their profile in our custody. We have been on the watch out for them because they were the same people that snatched two AK47 rifles from our men,” he said.



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“I am calling on parent to be on the watch out on their wards because taking arms against anybody will not be tolerated,” he warned.

Commending the security operatives for the prompt response, the State Security Adviser to Governor Ben Ayade, Mr. Ani Esin, said his office was working in collaboration with security agencies in the state with a view to reduce crime rate.

Esin said all necessary infrastructures had been put in place to ensure that the Christmas period is celebrated peacefully in the state. “We are trying to revamp all the security units across the state and to also empower the security agencies because we want to feel their presence at every corner especially now that we are having thousands of visitors in the state.

“I have visited majority of the security outfits and I can assure you that Christmas will be peaceful and beyond that, we hope that the entire state will be calm during the carnival and election period,” he said.

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