

Police kill suspected kidnapper, rescue two victims unhurt

From Monday **Osayande, Asaba**

POLICE operatives attached to Abraka Division, Delta State have reportedly killed a suspected kidnapper in fierce gun duel in the bush at Abraka community, Ethiope East Local Council of the state.

Spokesperson for the command, SP Bright Edafe, who confirmed the killing, said "on April 26, at about 9:00a.m., the command received an intelligence report that some suspected kidnappers were hibernating in Okuno, Orogun, where they were hiding alongside some kidnapped victims."

Edafe explained that following the information received, the State Police Commissioner, Abaniwonda Olufemi immediately directed the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), SP Fabian Ayameh, to swiftly mobilise his men, alongside members of the Abraka vigilante, and hunters group, to storm the bush for the needful.

He said when the teams arrived at the bush, the suspected kidnappers engaged them in a fierce gun duel during which one of the suspects sustained serious gunshot injuries while others escaped.

According to him, the injured suspect was taken to the hospital where he was confirmed dead by medical personnel on duty while

receiving treatments. He hinted that one AK-47 rifle and 11 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition were recovered from the kidnappers, even as their two kidnapped victims (name withheld) were rescued unhurt. "They have been reunited with their families, but we are hunting for other fleeing suspects, he added.

Edafe also confirmed the arrest of a 38-year-old commercial motorcyclist, Orji Timothy, in connection with a sizeable quantity of weed suspected to be Indian Hemp.

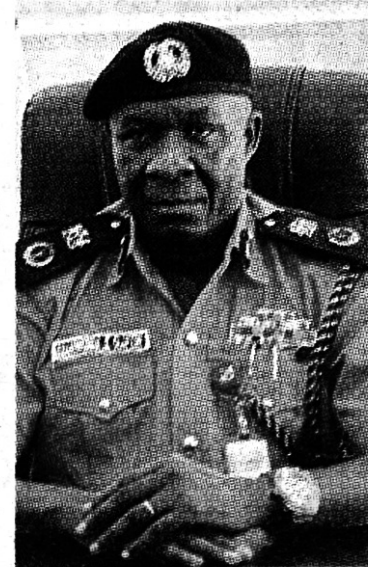
He said: "On April 24, at about 12:45a.m., Eagle Net Special Squad Surveillance team while on routine patrol along Ovirigor Road Ughelli, flagged down a motorcycle.

"Upon search, a sizeable quantity of weeds suspected to be Indian Hemp was recovered, and this necessitated the arrest of Timothy who resides at No. 21 Olotu Street Ughelli.

"When the Police searched the suspects residence, a locally made double barrel pistol with two live cartridges, 20 sachets of 100mg Tramadol, one sachet of Swinol and two cutlasses were recovered."

ALSO, a special squad of Police operatives in Delta State has arrested six suspected kidnappers terrorising Ughelli and its environs

* Nab six others



CP Abaniwonda Olufemi

in Sapele town.

The Guardian gathered that the operatives led by ASP Julius Robinson rescued three of their victims unhurt.

The command's spokesperson, Bright Edafe, who confirmed the incident, said the squad, currently stationed in Ughelli, through a high-density operation, in a sting operation, stormed Sapele town and arrested the leader of the suspected syndicate known as Ibrahim Usman - a 35-year-old indigene of Abaji Town, Kogi State. He said: "At about 5:30a.m. of the following day, the suspect led the operatives to Itsekiri Road area of Sapele Town, where two of his gang members: Joseph Aondohbmba,

22, of Gbeji Community in Logo council, Benue State and Collins Ovo (alias Gbegbes), 23, a male suspect from Adeji Community in Okpe council, Delta State were arrested.

"The gang leader, Ibrahim Usman took the team to his residence at Itsekiri Road, before Macpherson Area of Sapele where a Beretta Pistol hidden under his mattress was recovered.

"The Police also recovered one Pump action gun, three Beretta pistols, one revolver pistol, and one locally made cut-to-size gun."

Edafe stated further that on April 24, the squad again stormed Ogorode Area of Sapele Town at about 7:30a.m., and arrested one Daniel Okete, who is a native of Jesse Community in Ethiope-West Local Council, but resides in Sapele.

"Upon search, a Beretta Pistol was recovered in his residence, which he confessed that he bought from one Goodluck Sokutu, 'm', also in custody, and he confessed being the third in command of Eiye Confraternity in Sapele Town.

"Also, confessions from a gun runner already in Police custody, Goodluck Sakuta, 'm', led to the recovery of a Beretta Pistol at an uncompleted building in Amukpe area of Sapele where it was hidden," Edafe stated.