

# Police Arrest MASSOB Members In Anambra, Kill 25 Suspects

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No less than 25 suspected armed robbers were killed by the Anambra State Police Command, in different operations in the last one month.

Similarly it has also arrested an equal number of suspected members of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), in similar operations in the state.

The State Police Commissioner, Mr. Oliver Osuchukwu, who disclosed this to reporters in Awka, over the weekend said that 11 of the robbery suspects, three suspected kidnappers and a man

alleged to be manufacturing arms and ammunition were also arrested.

Narrating the recent police onslaught on violent crimes in the state, Osuchukwu said on June 2, 2007 a team of State Anti-robbery Squad (SARS) Onitsha, while on patrol along Waterside, near Ose Market, accosted armed bandits suspected to be MASSOB members, who opened fire on it.

In the ensuing gunfire, seven of the hoodlums lost their lives, after which the team recovered one K2 rifle S/No. 061353 with 7 rounds of 5.56mm live ammunition, one pump action gun no. MV. 94203C, with fifteen live cartridges and two daggers.

A similar incident on June 3, also saw to the wiping out of an entire seven-man gang, while on 16th May, another two-man gang driving in a Gulf car, was intercepted by men of the High Way Patrol at former Toll Gate, along Onitsha-Enugu expressway.

The suspects, on sensing danger, according to the police boss, disembarked and took to their heels, leading to one of them being knocked down by another moving vehicle, while the second ran into the bush adding that on the spot search led to the recovery of one AK47 rifle with seven rounds of live ammunition in the car.

The driver, one Umaru

Jalilum, of Dangi in Plateau State, on interrogation, was said to have confessed to series of robberies within Nkwella Road Junction, along Onitsha-Enugu Road, which led to the arrest of four other gang members, including two staff of a local security outfit and the recovery of three pump action guns and 93 live cartridges.

Osichukwu, also gave account of how on July 4, a patrol team from Okpoko Police Station, on a tip-off, raided a criminal hideout along Ijorah Street Okpoko, Onitsha, which also led to another gun battle, during which six other robbery suspects were killed and several arms and ammunition recovered.