

Police Kill Six Kidnappers In Abia

By Ben Duru

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Police in Abia State have killed six members of a kidnap gang including those that kidnapped a bank worker.

They also smashed another gang that dispossessed manager of a first generation bank of his Honda saloon car.

Similarly another group of three that kidnapped a housewife at Umunevo, Nvosi in Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area in the state also met their Waterloo after a gun battle with detectives from the anti-kidnap team.

Displaying the corpses of the alleged kidnappers at the command headquarters, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Edgar Tam Nanakumo, said their elimination was part of the renewed onslaught on their various hideouts in the state.

According to him, "following information from the public the detectives mounted surveillance on the hideout of the gang that kidnapped the bank staff and on November 25, the hideout was raided at about 2a.m along Opobo road in Aba.

"On sighting the detectives the gang opened fire which was returned by the police. At the end of the two hours of continuous shooting, two of the suspected kidnappers fell to the superior firepower of the detectives."

The police boss listed some of the items recovered from the hideout to include one Lar rifle, a locally made revolver, six rounds of 9mm live ammunition as well as 14 fully loaded AK47 magazines.

He said the detectives also raided the hideout of another gang responsible for the killing of some policemen in Aba; recently, describing the activities of the gang as bizarre.

"On seeing the approaching policemen from their burrow pit hideout at Obingwa council, the hoodlums opened fire on them. As the police responded, one of the gang members was killed, while others escaped.

"Items such as a Honda Civic car belonging to a kidnapped manager of a leading commercial bank, two locally made single barrel gun and 16 rounds of live cartridges were recovered from them."

Nanakumo said the kidnapped housewife was also rescued from her abductors at Ugba Uzo-Iyi Umuodochi in Nsulu area of Isiala Ngwa North following the killing of three of the gang that had kept her in hiding for several weeks.

He also listed the items recovered from the kidnappers to include one locally made shotgun; one Nissan Pick Up marked No. DM 57 LSR and a handset both said to be the property of their victim.

According to the Police commissioner, the onslaught on kidnappers and armed robbers in the state is an on-going strategy to dislodge them from their hideout and bring them to book.

He assured that the police would not sleep until residents of the state and those coming in for the Christmas and Sallah festivals are able to sleep with their two eyes closed and urged members of the public to volunteer information that would assist the police.