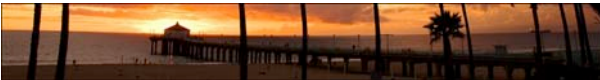




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Daily Independent (Lagos)
Nigeria: Imo Police Intensify War On Crime - Kill Two Robbery Suspects

Uche Nwosu 25 March 2010

Owerri — As the war against violent crime in Imo State intensifies, two armed robbery suspects whom the police described as dangerous and deadly in the state have been shot dead.

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The robbery suspects, Justice Nnaekwe alias Pabobo and Chijioke Okwara, were said to be terrorizing the people of Ideato North and Ideato South axis of the state with members of their gang since early last year. Some of them, the police acknowledged, are now at large.

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Briefing journalists on the issue, Commissioner of Police in Imo State, Aloysius Okorie, disclosed that another suspect, Festus Obi, from Dimagu in Ideato, now in imprison custody and on the awaiting trial list, invaded Dimagu Autonomous Community and raided the house of one Lawrence Okwara and robbed him and his household of N262,000 and other valuables.

The incident, he said, occurred on February 27, 2009. However, on March 18, 2009, the same gang attacked the resident of one Edwin Abazie and robbed him of his valuables including N45,s000.

According to him, following an intensive battle against criminals in the area, the Divisional Police Office in Ideato North arrested Festus Obi while other members of the gang fled.

"From then, spirited efforts were made to arrest them. Fortunately, on March 13, 2010 about 7pm, the gang led by their ring-leader Pabobo, engaged the police in a serious gun battle which lasted for a while. But at the end, the police team triumphed as two members of the gang including their leader, Pabobo, were gunned down, while others escaped", he declared.


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The police chief also revealed that after the gun battle, one AK 47 rifle, four magazines, 90 rounds of 99mm, one single barrel long gun were recovered from the gang. The CP therefore assured that the fleeing members of the gang would soon be arrested as the police have intensified investigations into the matter.


"We're closing in on them, very soon the suspect will be apprehended", he vowed.




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