

Police Kill Two, Arrest Eight Kidnappers In Edo

By Francis Onoiribholo
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Barely one week after traditional worshippers, including herbalists, voodoo priests, native doctors and others placed curses on kidnappers and their accomplices as well as other criminals in the state, eight suspected kidnappers are now cooling their heels at the headquarters of the Edo State Police Command while two of them have been killed.

The kidnappers, according to Edo State Commissioner

of Police, Emmanuel Kachi Udeoji, were arrested between the 17th and 18th of this month.

But Udeoji who briefed journalists on the recent successes by his command, did not attribute the breakthrough to the actions of the traditionalist.

He said the command acted on a tip-off and information provided by an individual which led to the arrest of 10 suspected kidnappers, adding that two died as a result of the engagement in a battle with the police.

According to him, two AK49 rifles with 46 rounds of live ammunition were recovered from the suspects, who were paraded before newsmen.

He said they confessed to having kidnapped Major General Ademokhai (retd) who parted with a N10 million ransom, Pastor Samuel Osaghae, who coughed out a N12 million ransom, one Osadebe, who paid N3 million and one Ogigegor, who paid N2 million.

The suspects, he added, would be charged to court. Those paraded include Lucky

Isaac Oturu, Godwin Samuel (alias Libyaman), Onome Uweseha, Stanley Akpovire, Jeffery Milton, Osaro Ekwuase (Osadebe's driver), Olu Oyea and Destiny Adiomane (alias Yellowman).

Some of the suspects admitted committing the crime but claimed that they were militants who had since embraced the Federal Government's amnesty programme.

They blamed government for not fulfilling its promise, which they claimed, led them to the crime.



Vice-President, Northern Elders Assembly, Bello Kirfi (right), with a member, Bashir Dalhatu, at a press briefing on the position of the group on the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) zoning arrangement in Abuja....on Wednesday. Photo: Jide Oyekunle

N20 Bribe Claims Two Lives At Army, Police Checkpoint

By Emmanuel Nzomiwu
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A BUS DRIVER and a female junior secondary school student lost their lives in an auto crash that occurred in the early hours of Wednesday at a joint army-police checkpoint along the Trans-Ekulu Estate axis of the Enugu-Onitsha expressway.

The incident disrupted vehicular traffic along the expressway as bus drivers rioted over the death of their colleague who they claimed, lost his life as a

result of a disagreement with a mobile policeman over the usual N20 bribe.

Eyewitnesses claimed that the bus driver was driving towards the direction of the flyover on the expressway, when he was flagged down by a mobile policeman who was armed with a rifle.

According to our sources, as soon as the driver slowed down, the policeman extended his hands to collect the bribe money but to his utter dismay, the driver was not forthcoming.

Angered by the complacency of the driver, the policeman reportedly forced him to park at the checkpoint.

It was gathered that tempers rose at this point as a heated argument ensued between the policeman and the bus driver who was angry over the impunity exhibited by the policeman over the demand.

Our sources said it was at the heat of the argument that the policeman started hitting the driver with the muzzle of his gun and in a bid to save his life, the driver

tried to move the vehicle but lost control and the bus crushed the student by the roadside before it somersaulted three times and ended up in a ditch.

But for the driver who died on the spot as a result of head injury, all the passengers in the bus were rescued alive.

Immediately the news of the incident spread, bus drivers in Enugu metropolis suspended their services and blocked the expressway for several hours disrupting vehicular traffic in and out of Enugu.