



Metro



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Abia police nab 22 suspects over robbery, drug trafficking, kidnapping

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TWENTY-TWO suspects, including two robbery suspects, Ochieze Friday, 25, and Munachi Lemechi, 19, who allegedly ordered their victims to lie down on the Enugu-Port Harcourt expressway, have been arrested by the Abia State Police Command.

Parading the suspects on Thursday in Umuahia, Police Commissioner, Ibrahim Adamu, said one of the suspects was arrested by detectives while attempting to unlock a stolen iPad somewhere around Alaoji area of Aba.

According to police, three persons among the hapless victims who were ordered to lie down on the highway were crushed to death by an on-coming vehicle, and the suspects later made away with their belongings including the iPad and cash.

Later in an interview with the Daily Independent, the prime suspect, Ochieze, said he was a mechanic at Alaoji and went into a jungle to smoke Indian hemp when somebody approached him with iPad, asking him to buy it.

He denied any involvement in the robbery incident, but admitted he was a smoker of hard drugs.

Also paraded were a three-man gang that allegedly robbed some National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) female members at the Abia Corpers' Lodge in

Umuahia.

According to the Police Commissioner, the three suspects, Sunday Anyim,

Ike Ahamefula, and Ikenna Anyanwu, were picked up in an uncompleted building near Timber Market Umu-

ahia following a tip off.

He said upon interrogation, the suspects confessed to the crime which oc-

curred on August 24, adding that they would soon be charged to court.

Later in an interview,

one of the suspects, Ahamefula told journalists that he became frustrated in life after the death of his mother, and was later lured into robbery by a friend in his bid to survive.

He said it was the friend who asked him to accompany him on an errand one night to the corpers' lodge where they robbed the corps members of their personal belongings, including laptops and mobile phones.

The police also paraded six other suspects arrested in possession of 690 wraps of substances suspected to be cocaine, and 201 wraps of Indian hemp at a hide-out in No 23 Arochukwu Street Umuahia.

Police said the suspects were arrested following a tip off that hard drugs were being sold freely at the building, adding that violent crimes around Umuahia metropolis could be traced to criminal elements who patronize hard drug dealers.

Similarly, two suspects, Chijioke Gabriel, 32, and Ibezim Ogbonna, 25, were also paraded for alleged involvement in robbery and kidnapping activities.

Police said that upon interrogation, Gabriel admitted he was part of the gang that allegedly kidnapped a woman at Glass force Aba sometime in January.

According to police, the suspects also confessed to be partners in crime with the notorious Deenwa, who had been on the police wanted list.



• Some of the suspects.