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Fleeing robbery suspects die in auto crash in Ondo

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By Yemi



Bodies of the fleeing robbers. Photo: Yemi Akintomide

Akintomide*Correspondent, Akure*

Four robbery suspects died in an auto crash after men of the State Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Ondo State Police Command, gave them a hot chase while trying to escape from the scene of a robbery operation in Akure on Tuesday morning.

The police also paraded 40 other suspects arrested for different offences alongside the corpses of suspected armed robbers at its Command Headquarters along Igbatoro road, Akure.

The State Commissioner of Police, Isaac Eke, said the four dead robbers lost their lives after his men gave the criminals a hot chase which led to a fatal accident around 4.am Tuesday morning.

Eke explained that the robbers lost control of their vehicle with registration number 11/260 FG and crashed it on the fence of a Church along Idanre road, Oke-Aro in Akure.

The Commissioner noted that the police took to action when the criminals opened fire on his men who were on patrol along Idanre road, stressing that they snatched and destroyed a police pump action.

One of the victims of the deceased who narrated his experience, Olumide Michael, said he and his brother were on their way to Port Harcourt when they were kidnapped by the criminals who disguised as security operatives.

According to him, “those dead criminals pretended to us that they were security operatives and that we were driving a car with a tinted glass, vowing to take us to the nearest police station.

“They took over my brother’s car and drove toward Ifon in Ose local government area of Ondo State. When we got to Ifon, we were expecting them to drive us straight to the station because as at that time, they had also apprehended five other people but they passed the front of the station and drove straight to a forest.

“When we got to the place, they brought out their guns and asked my brother how much he had in his bank account and if he was with his ATM card. My brother confessed that he had about N500, 000 in his account.

“They immediately changed the number plates of my brother’s cars with other vehicles they had snatched to a Police and Federal Government numbers. They drove towards Owo road through the forest and when we got to an unknown place, they called one man on phone that they’re going for an operation and that they would need police uniform.

“Before going for the operation around 4.a.m yesterday (Tuesday), they tied five of us to a tree, while two of us were taken away by one of them to an unknown place.

We were rescued by farmers who were passing the route to the farm when we were on top of our voices.

“We ran to a nearby police station to report the incident and the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) called us later that he had been informed that some suspected criminals had been arrested. But on getting to the Police Command, we discovered that they were all dead and we identified them,” Michael stated.

Eke disclosed that two AK 47 rifles with No. 26182 belonging to Okuta-Elerinla Division carted away from them by the dead criminals were recovered.

Other items were N160, 000, 126 live ammunitions, three magazines, 21 handsets, two number plates (Edo State), substances suspected to be dynamite and charms.

Also, six additional suspected robbers, 32 cultist members, and two people arrested for unlawful possession of human skull were paraded.

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