

Police Arrest 31 Suspected Kidnappers, Robbers, Kill Five

1 The police have arrested 31 suspects terrorising the Abuja-Minna and Abuja-Kaduna highways.

At a press briefing, CSP Jimoh Moshood, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), announced that 31 suspected kidnappers and armed robbers were paraded at Dikko, near Suleja, Niger State.

The names of the suspects were announced on the NPF Facebook page, and it was also announced that five of the suspected kidnappers were killed in a gunfight with the police.

Sadly, the police lost Sergeant Shettima Abdullahi after an ambush by the suspects.

Arms and ammunition were recovered from the suspects as well as military boots, fatigues, caps and materials belonging to their victims.

The arrest is consequent upon reinforcement of Operation Absolute Sanity on Abuja-Minna Highway with more personnel of Special Tactical Squad and additional two units of Special Police Forces by the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to tackle the gangs of kidnappers that escaped arrest on Abuja-Kaduna Highway and relocated to some roads in Niger.

"In the operation that is still ongoing, four different vicious and notorious kidnap-for-ransom gangs, including those dealing in illegal possession of prohibited fire arms, were dislodged and busted.

"Also arrested is a gang that is responsible for the killings of some security personnel on Kaduna-Abuja road and Abuja-Lokoja road recently.

"They equally confessed to have assaulted some of their victims. A total number of 31 suspected kidnappers/armed robbers were arrested in the operation. They confessed to the offence and admitted to the various criminal roles they played in the commission of the crime.

"The arms and ammunition, kidnappers operational vehicles listed above and other properties belonging to some of their victims, who were rescued from the gangs, were recovered from them.

2 "Most of the suspects were identified by the victims and for being responsible for their kidnap. Investigation is being intensified to arrest the other suspects at large. All the suspects will be arraigned in court on completion of investigation."