

IGP Orders Manhunt For Killers Of DPO, Five Police Officers

By **Aruga Joe Omokaro** - July 2, 2019

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Lagos / Yenagoa / Port Harcourt – Mohammed Adamu, the Inspector General of Police, on Monday ordered manhunt of gunmen, suspected to be militants, who invaded Agudama-Ekpetiama police station in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, killing the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), SP Ola Rosanla, a pregnant policewoman and two policemen who were on duty.

Similarly, there was panic in Diobu, a densely populated area of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Monday morning when suspected gunmen killed two mobile police officers and carted away their guns.

A source, who preferred anonymity, told journalists that the Bayelsa gunmen stormed the police station, which does not have a perimeter fence, at the early hours of Monday and started shooting sporadically.

"No civilian was killed during the attack because there were no detainees in the cell of the station.

"The attack happened about 2.15a.m of Monday and lasted for about an hour.

"We saw that several guns, ammunitions and police uniforms were carted away by the gunmen," the source said.

Another source said the bandits entered the premises of the police station from the bank of the river and caught the cops on duty unawares.

The hoodlums reportedly took DPO Ola Rosanla to the armoury and ensured they took all the guns and ammunition and uniforms before they forced him to kneel down and killed him.

It was learnt that the gunmen, thereafter, moved from one room to another searching for policemen believed to be hiding in the rooms, and found the pregnant policewoman identified as Joy Wellington and killed her.

Four policemen were on patrol in the community when they heard the gunshots and rushed down to the station where they had a gun duel with the gunmen, inflicting bullet wounds on them and also suffered fatal wounds and are now in critical condition at the hospital.

The bodies of the deceased officers had been deposited at the mortuary at the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, Okolobiri.

Frank Mba, Force Public Relations Officer, said in a statement on Monday that the Inspector General of Police had condemned the attack.

He said no stone would be left unturned towards apprehending the perpetrators and bringing them to book.

Meanwhile, the IGP has ordered the immediate deployment of crack detectives from the IGP-Intelligence Response Unit (IRT), the Forensic and Homicide sections of the FCID, and Special Operatives of the Marine Police Department to Yenagoa to complement the efforts of the Bayelsa Police Command in carrying out discrete investigation into the unfortunate incident.

The IGP, while paying tribute to the fallen heroes, condoled with the families of the officers who had paid the supreme price in the service of their fatherland.

Adamu described the incident as a classic example of the risk and sacrifices the police were exposed to in their daily task of protecting the homeland.

He enjoined the Agudama Ekpetiama community and the entire people of Bayelsa State to remain calm and to avail the police with credible information that would help the law enforcement agencies towards apprehending the criminals.

Meanwhile, Kemela Okara, Secretary to the Bayelsa State Government (SSG), who is from the area, said the state government was enveloped with shock and disbelief at the invasion and killing of the law enforcement officers.

He offered condolences to the bereaved families of the officers and promised that the government would get to the root of the dastardly act.

“We would leave no stone unturned, we would make every effort possible to bring those who committed this dastardly act to book. We would ensure they are apprehended and face the full wrath of the law. We cannot afford to have a state where people feel they can move into a community and kill people at will. That we cannot allow happening”, Okara said.

Gunmen Kill Two Policemen, Injure Two Civilians, Cart Away Arms, Cash

Similarly, there was panic in Diobu, a densely populated area of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Monday morning when suspected gunmen killed two mobile police officers and carted away their guns.

It was also gathered that two civilians sustained bullet wounds in the attack which took place along the popular Timber Road, by Ojoto Road in Mile 2, Diobu.

Eyewitnesses claimed that the two police officers were inside a Toyota Camry car accompanying a vehicle conveying cash to the bank when unknown gunmen ambushed them and opened fire.

The two civilians, who sustained bullet injuries, were drivers of the vehicles.

They were later rushed to a nearby hospital, while the remains of the police officers, who were first taken to the Iloabuchi-Azikiwe Police Station, from where they were deposited in a mortuary.

Prince Amatari-Bipelidei, the spokesman of the Diobu Vigilance Group, who confirmed the incident to journalists, said the people were surprised at the activities of the unknown gunmen who, he said, shot sporadically after killing the mobile police officers.

Sources within the area of the crime incident disclosed that the armed youths succeeded in carting away an undisclosed amount of cash from the victims.

Bipelidei blamed the prevailing state of insecurity in the state on the delay in establishing the Rivers State Neighbourhood Safety Corps or equipping the local vigilance group.

He said until government made haste to equip those who know and have all it takes to fight crime from the grassroots, insecurity would continue to increase.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Nnamdi Omoni, said though he heard about the incident, "I am yet to confirm it".

He added: "I have heard a thing like that, we will find out and get back to you."

Angry Youths Set Police Station Ablaze In Imo

In another development, angry youths in Obowo Local Government Area of Imo State, on Monday, set ablaze the police station in the local government headquarters, Otoko, in protest over the alleged killing of a youth.

The youths, who angrily trooped to the police station in protest over the alleged killing of Ikenna Ogbunigwe by a police officer who serves in the division, also reportedly carted away a number of undisclosed items before setting the police station ablaze.

The late Ogbunigwe of Umuoke Obowo was confirmed dead by medical personnel at the Mercy Hospital after he was rushed to the hospital by some youths.

The youths also carted away firearms and other exhibits belonging to the police while releasing detainees in the station.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) was reportedly whisked away by officers in the division after the youths attempted to lynch him.

An eyewitness revealed that the remains of the late Ikenna was taken to the police station before the station was eventually set ablaze.

According to him, trouble started when the deceased confronted the police officer over an issue at a popular restaurant in the area.

He said the police officer pulled the trigger on the deceased, adding that the said police officer then released gunshots in the air and fled when angry youths tried to apprehend him.

The Imo Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Orlando Ikeokwu, when contacted, said he was yet to be briefed on the matter.

Additionally, efforts to get the reaction of the Commissioner of Police in the state, Rabiuladodo, failed.

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Aruga Joe Omokaro

ARUGA JOE OMOKARO heads the Special Investigation Unit of the INDEPENDENT Newspaper. He studied journalism (Diploma) and marketing (Post-Graduate Diploma) at the Nigerian Institute Of Journalism. He has spent over two decades reporting crime and defence. As a veteran, he has occupied several editorial positions and won awards. At The Sun, he was the News Editor (Sunday); The Independent, Assistant News Editor; The Moment, Deputy Editor (Sunday); and at The SUPREME, Editor-In-Chief. His outstanding performance in the profession has earned him an accolade of "Crack Investigator".