

# Angry Mob Sets Suspected Phone Thief Ablaze In Bayelsa

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YENAGOA

A suspected thief was on Saturday set ablaze by an angry mob in Yenagoa, the capital of Bayelsa State.

It was gathered that the incident happened around the Customs Road junction at the Biogbolo-Epie suburb, along the Isaac Boro expressway.

The suspected thief, whose identity could not be ascertained, was said to have been

caught allegedly stealing an expensive phone from a victim.

The fair-complexioned youth, said to be in his early 30s, was among a three-member syndicate who specialised in using tricycle, popular called 'Keke', to allegedly rob their targets of their valuables.

But, the two other gang members, it was learnt, escaped while the third was caught by members of the public following an alarm raised by a victim who allegedly recognised the

bandits.

Our correspondent, who visited the scene, observed that the remains of the suspect who was burnt with a tyre, were still smouldering.

About four policemen and their patrol van were also sighted at the scene, with passers-by catching a glimpse of the burnt thief.

Some eyewitnesses said he was allegedly wielding an AK-47 rifle when the mob attacked him, forcefully dragged the

gun from him and put the tyre around his neck and set him on fire with petrol.

One of them, who pleaded anonymity, said, "He stole a very expensive phone. They were three in number in Keke. He was holding (an) AK-47 gun, the two others ran away, but they caught him.

"The people (mob) collected the gun from him and brought one tyre, which they put around his neck and lit the fire. I heard his girlfriend was here, she said