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[Version en texte seul](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | **Police kill notorious robber in Niger**

Police kill notorious robber in Niger

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THE police in Niger State have killed the suspected leader of an inter-state robbery gang, **Jariri Gide**.

Speaking with reporters yesterday in Minna, the state capital, Commissioner of Police Mike Zuokumor said **Gide**, who hailed from Hurumi in Kebbi State, robbed travellers on the Niger/Kebbi road.

Zuokumor said **Gide** and his gang killed some of their victims and had often engaged the police in gun duels.

He said an Inspector with the Police Comand in Kebbi State, Ibrahim Iko, was killed by Gide's men in October.

Zuokumar said: "The gang has been terrorising the people of Kebbi and Niger states. They killed an Inspector of Police, took away his uniform and used it to commit more atrocities."

The suspected robber met his end following an intelligence report on the gang's operation. He said his men ambushed the gang during one of their operations, killing **Gide** and other members.

Some of the criminals escaped.

Zuokumor said: "We have launched a manhunt for them. I urge the public to give us information about the criminals."

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in the state has said it arrested 94 suspects for illegal possession of over 1,800 kilogrammes of Cannabis Sativa (Indian hemp) last year.

Commandant Abdullahi Abdul said 56 of the suspects had been convicted and 38 had been charged to court.

Abdul said the involvement of women in drug related offences had reduced.

He said the abuse of cough syrup is a major challenge, adding that his command was planning a workshop for chemist and pharmacy operators on how to combat the problem.

The commandant urged youths to stay off drugs.

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