

Police rescue kidnap victims in Akwa Ibom, Rivers

•One killed •Five arrested over land tussle

THE Akwa Ibom State Police Command yesterday said it rescued a 26-year-old woman, Genevieve Effiom, from her abductors.

Also in Rivers, the police rescued two kidnap victims and arrested 47 suspected hoodlums.

Effiom was said to have been abducted by a six-man gang in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, by suspected kidnappers on October 29.

She was said to be returning home from school when the kidnappers grabbed her.

Police spokesman Onyeka Orji confirmed the incident. He said the victim was rescued unhurt.

Orji said one of the suspects was killed by the police when he wanted to collect a ransom of N500, 000 from Effiom's family.

His words: "Genevieve Effiom was kidnapped on October 29 by six armed men.

"In a bold and courageous operation, she was rescued un-

Ex-Edo Speaker's wife abducted

WIFE of ex-Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly Bright Omokhodion, Fidelia, was abducted by suspected kidnappers on Sapele Road in Benin.

Family sources said the kidnappers were yet to demand ransom.

Her husband could not be reached for comments.

**From Kazeem Ibrahim,
Uyo and Bisi Olaniyi, Port
Harcourt**

harmd while one of the kidnappers was killed while attempting to collect a ransom of N500, 000.

"Efforts are on to arrest other fleeing members of the gang."

The Commissioner of Police, Solomon Arase, said five suspects have been arrested in a communal crisis rocking Ini Local Government.

Arase said normalcy had returned to the troubled area but his men were still there to restore peace and order.

The police chief said the crisis rocking the communities had been a protracted one.

His words: "Normalcy has returned to the area. We are getting the government to get a commission of enquiry to mediate in the matter.

"The crisis has been a protracted crisis between the communities. It bothers on land matter.

"So far, five people have been arrested. They will soon be arraigned in court."

Sources said the people of Mbente village were said to have invaded Ikot Akpan; Ikot Offrong and Ubienkene villages where a lot of houses were razed.

Rivers police spokesman Ben Ugwuogbulam said Rumuji Divisional Patrol men arrested five robbery suspects.

Ugwuogbulam said the suspects: Chikwere, Nyeche, Kunchi, Chimele and Ozule, had been robbing people around Rumuji, on the East-West Road.

A locally-made pistol was recovered from them.

He said the police also received information on a robbery at Ogoloma, Onne, near Port Harcourt.

Two women, Ugwuogbulam said, were also abducted.

The spokesman said Onne patrol teams swiftly responded and chased the hoodlums, resulting in an exchange of gunfire.

"One of the kidnapped women was rescued and one of the kidnappers, Tamunoiduabia, arrested.

"The search for the second kidnap victim continued with the support of the arrested suspect and within one hour, she was rescued," he said.

The suspect's confession, according to the police spokesman, led to the raid and arrest of 41 suspected hoodlums.