

Three killed in Rivers robbery

By [Bisi Olaniyi](#), 30/12/2011 00:00:00

•N8m stolen from liquor store •ACN expresses concern •Suspects paraded in Akwa Ibom

Armed robbers have killed two officials of the Rivers State Road Traffic Management Authority (TIMA-RIV) and a passer-by in Port Harcourt.

They were killed barely three months after the agency's legal adviser was kidnapped.

The Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) has decried the spate of insecurity in the state.

It was gathered that the hoodlums were escaping after a robbery when stray bullets hit a passer-by on Okija Street, D-Line (Direct Main Line).

At Emekuku and Agudama streets, the robbers shot the TIMA-RIV's officials by the side of Agudama Street, D-Line.

One of the officials died on the spot while his colleague died on the way to the hospital.

Police spokesman Ben Ugwuegbulam said N8 million was stolen

from a liquor firm, Paddyman Nigeria Limited.

Ugwuegbulam said: "Yesterday at about 0800 hours, a gang of robbers attacked Paddyman Nigeria Limited, a liquor company, at No. 3, Ojoto Street, Mile 2, Port Harcourt.

"The robbers, operating in an ash Volkswagen Passat, broke into the strong room of the company and took about N8million.

"Customers were also robbed. Azikiwe Police Station patrol team confronted them.

"There was an exchange of gunfire, resulting in a corporal being injured.

"The robbers managed to escape into Ada-George Road, where at Emenike Junction, they shot two TIMA-RIV recruits."

The ACN, through its Publicity Secretary, Jerry Needam, in Port Harcourt said yesterday's robbery has vindicated the opposition's position that the state was insecure.

The party said: "The inability of the Rivers State Government to provide adequate security is the main reason for the rise in insecurity.

"Government has abandoned the duty of securing life and property and is currently engaged in the murky waters of 2015 politics."

The police in Akwa Ibom State yesterday paraded 13 kidnap and robbery suspects.

Among those paraded were a five-member rapist gang which specialises in defiling their woman captives.

Commissioner of Police Solomon Arase said the command also raided a criminal hideout at Ekom Imam Junction and recovered four vehicles.

The vehicles, according to the police boss, are one Volvo U 40 car with a fake reg, AA 883 AED, and another number, FE 704 APP, written on its glass.

Others are a Nissan Sunny AA 662 ETN; Nissan Primera AE 78 DUU and a Mitsubishi bus with the following numbers: CC 384 KSF; AH 190 KPR; XA 959 KEK; XB 104 SKP and AH 575 DBU.

Arase said the command arrested some suspects during Christmas.

He listed their names as Eyo Okon, Effiong Emmanuel, Joshua Bassey and Emem Etukudo.

Items recovered include one fully loaded G3 rifle with number 120413, one locally made pistol with 50 live cartridges, one 25mp Yamaha outboard engine and a bag containing items suspected to be charms.

One of the alleged rapists, Ubong Effiong, spoke to reporters in pidgin.

His words:

"I no sleep with the woman sir. Na ltoro say I be kidnapper he come carry me come here for them to beat me."

"I be truck pusher for Itam Market. I no follow sleep with the woman sir. Na Itoro for talk truth

."

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