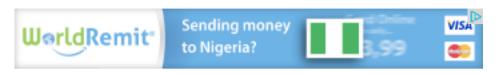


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Police kill five 'kidnappers', 'bank robbers' in Rivers, Anambra

Posted by: Bisi Olaniyi, Port Harcourt and Nwanosike Onu, Awka Posted date: October 24, 2012 In: News

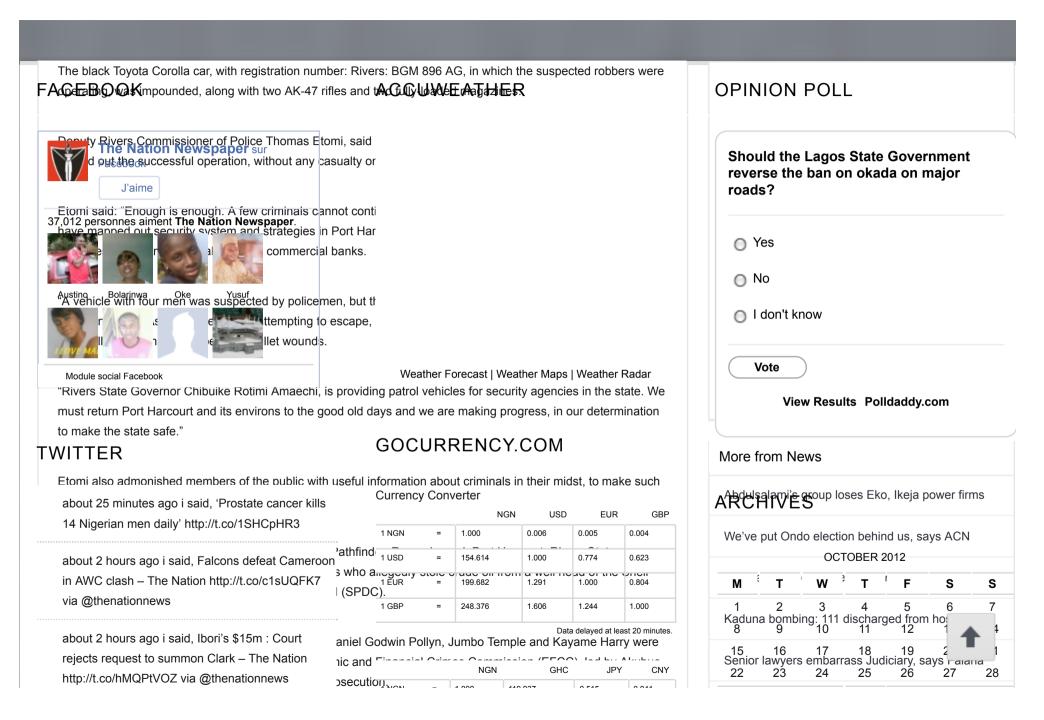
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Security operatives engaged in gun battles with suspected kidnappers and bank 'robbers' yesterday in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, and in Anambra State.

At the end, five hoodlums – two bank robbers and three suspected kidnappers – were gunned down.

The attempted robbery took place on Ada-George Road around noon yesterday. Bodies of the slain suspects were paraded at the headquarters of the Rivers Police on Moscow Road.





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Commodore Fadeyi said: "Theowessay has Miss Adoraye Wilcox Santos of Ship-Care Nigeria Limited as its agent.

The ship allegedly sailed from Lagos to Port Harcourt for maintenance and anchored at Bonny (Island in Rivers State, base of Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas Limited, NLNG).

"On September 30, 2012, the vessel proceeded to Ererekiri Creek in Bonny and connected its hoses to SPDC's well head 2, in an attempt to steal crude oil.

"At about 0100 (1 am), while siphoning the crude oil, the vessel caught fire, the inferno that ensued, killed some of the perpetrators, while one sustained about 30 degree burns. The number of crew affected in the inferno could not be ascertained."

The commander also stated that the Base Intelligence Officer of Forward Operating Base (FOB), Bonny was informed that there was a patient in Channel Clinic with fire burn injury and on investigation, it was discovered that the patient was linked to the fire outbreak on the vessel.

Upon further investigation, Fadeyi said four persons suspected to be linked with the fire incident were arrested and brought to NNS Pathfinder for investigation and were subjected to interrogation, to ascertain their level of involvement in the crude oil theft.

While receiving the suspects, the leader of the EFCC team (Okechukwu) assured that the anti-graft agency would conduct further investigation and possible prosecution of the four suspects.

All the suspects, in separate interviews with reporters, claimed that they were innocent and wrongly arrested for a crime they did not commit.

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lasted for over one hour, during which three suspected-kidnappers were killed.

The police said, one of their victims, Rev. Fr. C. Okoye of the Catholic Arch Diocese of Onitsha was rescued with another victim Onyekwelu Jonathan Eledu.

Also, six other kidnap suspects have been arrested by police in their different hide outs in the state.

The police said the killed suspects were members of the dreaded gang of the Oraifite Kingpin, Olisa Ifedika (aka-Ofeakwu).

They were said to be responsible for most kidnappings in the state and environs. The Orsumoghu detention camp of the suspects in Ihiala Local government area has been dismantled.

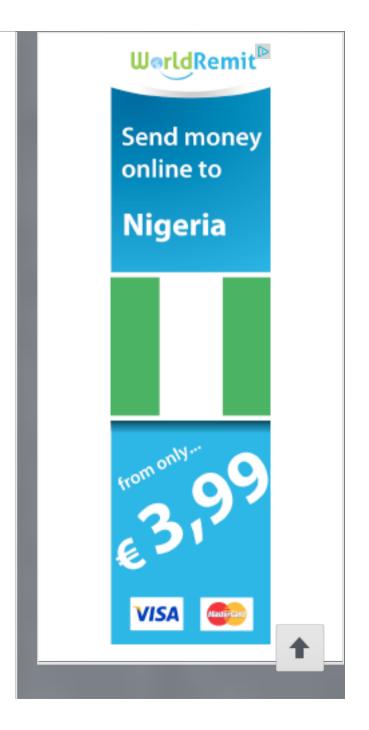
Before the rescue of the priest, the hoodlums, it was gathered, demanded a ransom of N20 million from their victim's family.

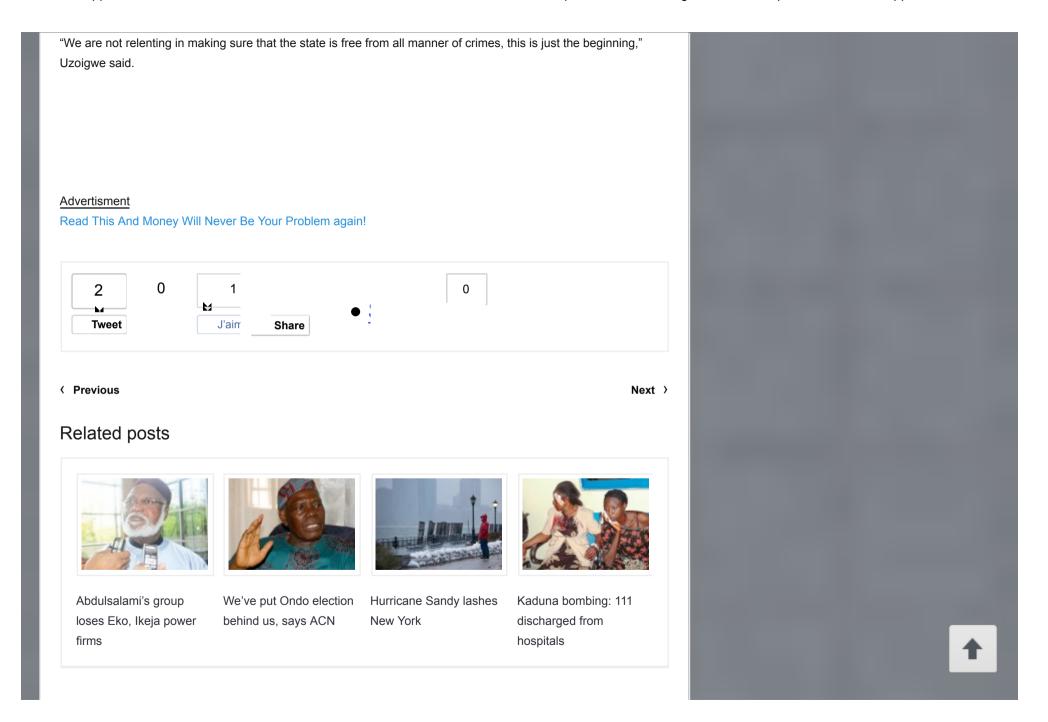
The police said it had arrested fourteen armed robbery suspects in the state since October 1. Two other robbery suspects were killed in a gun battle.

The items recovered from the kidnap suspects yesterday are two- AK 47 riffles, one rocket launcher, one rocket, four rocket propellers, 18 AK 47, magazines and 300 rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition.

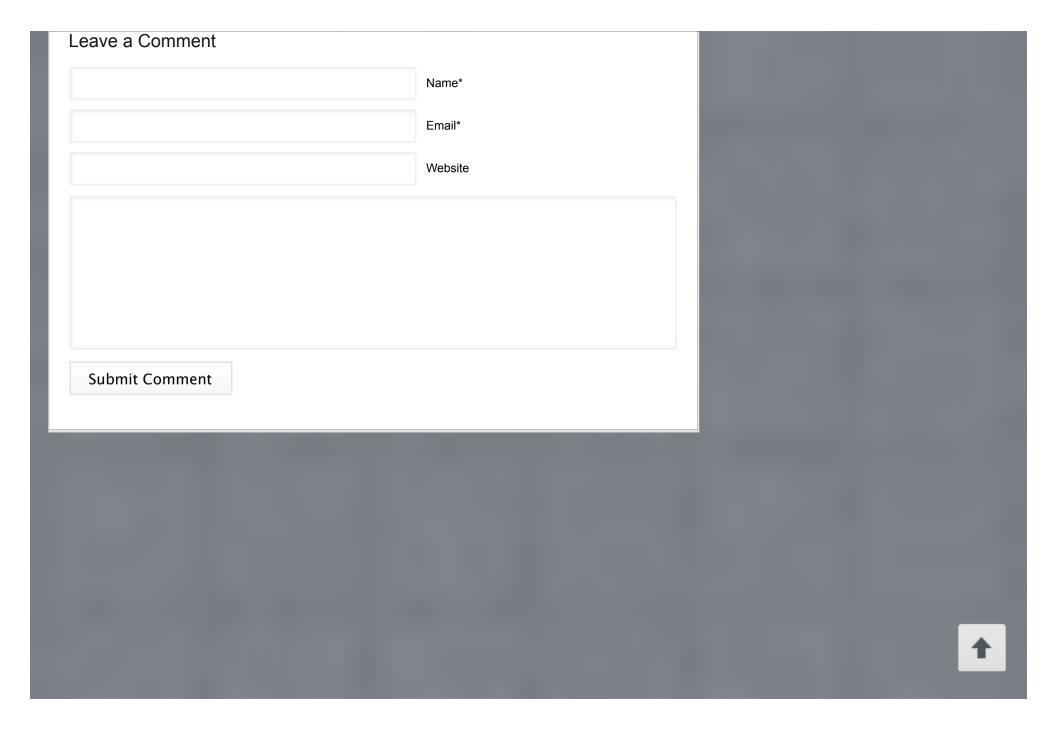
Police spokesman Raphael Uzoigwe said the operatives are working to track down the fleeing wounded members of the syndicate.

"We want to make sure that these hoodlums are all flushed out in Anambra state before the yuletide period, the state police is working every day and night on this issue.





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