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Police kill robbers' leader in Anambra

Posted by: Nwanosike Onu, Awka in News 2 days ago

- Native doctor, woman 'kidnapper' arrested
- Five other suspects also arrested
- AK-47 rifles, others recovered

The Anambra State Police Command has killed a suspected robbers' gang leader in Awka, the state capital, while a gang of robbers killed a mobile police officer in a shootout.

The command said it smashed a syndicate that specialised in car snatching and arrested five of its members.

The police said it recovered 30 cars, including seven brand new ones, in operations.

The new Police Commissioner Hosea Karma addressed reporters yesterday in Awka when he paraded the suspects at the police headquarters.

The police chief warned criminals to stay away from the state, because there would be no hiding place for them.

He said the suspected car snatchers in police custody were speaking on their activities as the command made progress in its investigations.

According to him, a woman who specialises in using her father's house to keep kidnap victims, has been arrested.

Karma said the police arrested members of a robbery gang that operated in churches across the state.

The police chief said other members of the gang took to bank robbery.

He said the gang attempted to rob a new generation bank in Awka last weekend.

Karma said the police killed the suspected gang leader, identified as Uzochukwu Onwusorigwe, from Imo State.

He said: "The gang leader met his Waterloo in the shootout. We lost a mobile policeman, who was on duty in that bank at the time. But we recovered three AK-47 rifles, three pump action guns with various ammunition and some cartridges. A welding machine, which they wanted to use to break into the vault of the bank, was equally recovered."

Karma urged parents to keep an eye on their wards and children to ensure that their houses are not used as criminals' den.

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"The state government and the House of Assembly have declared war on kidnapping. So, anybody who allows his property to be used would definitely meet with the full wrath of the law."

The police said they have arrested a native doctor from Nando, who specialised in encouraging young criminals and doing concoctions for them.

The police chief said the native doctor deceived the youths that nobody would arrest them, adding that even if they were arrested, they should not confess because they would die, if they did.

He said his men raided an uncompleted building at Nnewi on September 25, which criminals allegedly used as their hideout.

Karma said an AK-47 rifle, 1,541 rounds of ammunition, 367 rounds of 5.56mm calibre rounds of ammunition, 30 AK-47 rifle magazines, six locally made pistols, four padlocks and two chains were recovered from suspects.

The police chief said the recoveries showed that the place was used as a den for kidnappers, adding that the recovered items were the tolls the suspects used during their operations.

He said the command also arrested four suspected members of a syndicate that specialised in issuing fake number plates.

According to him, at the Otuocha Police Division, a police vigilance patrol seized a bus loaded with 28 split units of air conditioners that were allegedly stolen from a hotel.

Karma said a man, identified to be the brother of the hotel owner and the receiver of the stolen air conditioners, were arrested.

The police chief urged the residents to be vigilant.

He assured that the command and the state government would always protect them from hoodlums.

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