

① Four 'kidnappers, bandits' killed in battles with police

Uncertainty over whereabouts of kidnapped Takum Council boss

FOUR suspected kidnappers and bandits have been killed during clashes with the police in Anambra and Zamfara states.

① Two of the suspects were gunned down on May 7, at Nkpor, Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State; while the other two met their waterloos along Gusau-Isafe Road, Zamfara State, on May 3, when operatives on patrol intercepted bandits on three motorcycles.

According to the Zamfara State Commissioner of Police, Muhammed Bunu, the operatives rescued one Abdullahi Naibi of Yardadi village, Bakura Local Government from the kidnappers, adding that an AK-47 rifle with empty magazine and a pump action gun were recovered from them.

Bunu said the suspects, who were three each on each of the motorcycles, engaged the police in a gun duel that lasted for an hour, adding that while two were killed, others fled with gunshot injuries.

✱ Similarly, the Anambra suspects were said to have been killed by a joint security team Umusiome-Nkpor road, at about 8:45pm on May 7.

FORTY eight hours after gunmen kidnapped the Caretaker Chairman, Takum Local Government, Boyi Manja, there has been no information with regards to his whereabouts.

The kidnappers, who killed Manja's police orderly during the attack which occurred on Sunday, along Wukari-Takum road, were yet to contact his family.

Giving update on the incident yesterday, Vice

• Three more FGC Birnin Yauri students, Zamfara victim regain freedom

From Emma Elekwa, Onitsha, and NAN

Police spokesman, Tochukwu Ikenga, said in a statement yesterday said two locally made explosives, one Ak-47 rifle, nine live 7.62 ammunition, four Ak-47 magazines, charms and other incriminating items, were recovered from the suspects.

According to Ikenga, security forces had engaged in several joint operations following credible information volunteered by residents of the state.

"These joint operations yielded a major positive development on May 7, by 8:45pm. The operatives, while on routine patrol along Umusiome Nkpor, Idemili North LGA intercepted a gang of four operating in an unregistered black Lexus

SUV.

"The operatives recovered two locally made explosives, one Ak47 rifle, nine live 7.62 ammunition, four Ak47 magazines, charms and other incriminating items.

"The operatives, during the gun duel with the criminals, demobilised two of the gang members, while two others escaped. Efforts are already emplaced to arrest the fleeing gang members."

Ikenga said other armed robbery suspects were arrested at Azu Ogbunike in Oyi Local Government Area of the state.

He said the suspects were apprehended around 4pm while vandalising a truck suspected to have been stolen.

"The suspects are one Nwusulor Fidelis, 51, Iloegunam Amobi,

From Victor Gai, Jalingo

Chairman, Takum LGA, Emmanuel Matuidi, said the situation was now in God's hands, praying that his boss would be released safely.

"The situation is still the same, since he was kidnapped on Sunday. On Monday the police went out in search of him and came back. Right now as I am speaking to you, they have not heard anything from the kidnappers.

44, Solomon Akpagu, 51, and Chidiebere Innocent, 28.

"They all confessed to the crime and they are currently helping the police with information on other syndicate members that dispossess innocent drivers of their trucks before bringing them to their criminal hideout at Azu Ogbunike," Ikenga added.

This is just as three of the seven remaining kidnapped students of the Federal Government College (FGC), Birnin-Yauri, Kebbi State, have regained freedom from their captors.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) identified those freed as Aliya Abubakar, Esther Sunday and Elizabeth Ogechi-Kwafor, bringing to seven, the number of victims freed since April 22.