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By Athan Agbakuru,

The [Imo State Police Command](#) has apprehended three kidnappers suspected to be members of the dare-devil syndicate that abducted the immediate past commissioner for Health in the state, Dr Vin Udokwu, a fortnight ago.

Addressing newsmen

Wednesday at the command headquarters, Owerri, Commissioner of Police, Mr Aloysius Okorie however announced that the ex-commissioner is yet to be rescued or released by the hoodlums as some members of the gang escaped during Tuesday's police raid on their hideout using their victim as shield.

According to him, the command acting on a tip-off on 14th September, 2010 dispatched operatives and trailed the kidnappers to a building in Egbema Ozubulu in Ekwusigo LGA of Anambra State and in the course of the operation rescued three others held hostage by the hoodlums.

The CP who gave the names of those rescued as Mr John Anozie of Umunze Ihitenansa kidnapped on 31st August, 2010, Mr Okechukwu Ezeani and Mrs Chinwe Okonkwo, both of Amaichi Nnewi who were kidnapped on 1st September, 2010 at Ebenasaa Road Nnewi, Anambra State.

He explained that the bandits on sighting the police during the operation opened fire and shot sporadically with sophisticated weapons for nearly an hour to ward-off the operatives while using their victims as shield.

Okorie who hinted that his men in collaboration with officers of Anambra State Command later overwhelmed the kidnappers in fire power disclosed that one of the victims who was later identified as Okolo Crescent of Egbema Ozubulu was shot the in the operation while two officers sustained minor injuries.

He further hinted that three members of the gang were arrested namely; Chukwudozie Jonathan Obi, Amobi Paul and Ositadimma Ejikeme all of Egbema Ozubulu while one rocket propelled grenade, one dynamite, 10empty magazines of AK47 rifle, one long dagger, one Oceanic Bank cheque, one Honda



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motorcycle and three locally made leg chains were recovered.

Expressing optimism that the command would soon track down the other fleeing suspects and rescue Dr Vin Udokwu unconditionally, the CP assured the people of the state that the command is committed to rid Imo State of criminals and urged the public to always assist police with useful information that could lead to the arrest of the bandits now at large.

Narrating her ordeal to newsmen, one of the rescued victims, Mrs Chinwe Okonkwo recalled that she was abducted with one of her husband's relations who was driving her home on the fateful night and described the kidnappers as heartless and most inhuman.

She said that they were sparingly fed and kept lying face-down for the period they were in the hideout of the abductors while they threatened their families through phone in order to extract ransom. #

It would be recalled that Dr Udokwu was kidnapped on 3rd September, 2010 at his hospital in Amaifeke Orlu and has since been held for a ransom of N100million

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