

Gun duel claims 2 robbery suspects

...17 political thugs nabbed in Delta

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POLICE in Delta State have shot dead two armed robbery suspects during a gun battle along the Oreokpe-Eku road in the state.

The suspects who were members of a three-man gang who operate on motorcycle, had been terrorizing residents and motorists along the route.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer of the state command Miss Olabisi Okuwobi an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), the patrol team from the police station had received a tip-off that members of the gang laid siege to the road and quickly went to the scene to dislodge the hoodlums.

She said the bandits on sighting the patrol team, opened fire, prompting the policemen to engage the robbers in a gun duel, killing on the spot, two of the gang members while one escaped into the bush.

ASP Okuwobi said four live cartridges and one CG 125 motorcycle with registration number Dt 879 were recovered from the scene of the attack while effort is on to track down the fleeing robber.

Meanwhile the state police command has confirmed the arrest of 17 out of the 20 suspected hired political thugs who invaded the private residence of Uvwie local government Chairmen, Chief (Mrs.) Evelyn Ojakovo early this month.

Those arrested, according to the PPRO, had previously attacked the convoy of the council boss on January 19, following a complaint by one Joel Ileleji and Sweet Ileleji respectively both of Number 2 Okubor Street Effurun near Warri at the police station in the area.

According to the command the two had reported that on January 18, at about 21:30 hours some group of youth attacked the council chairman

on the 8th of the same month.

The irate youths armed with cutlasses, broken bottles, and machetes had again regrouped and riotously broken into the private residence of Mrs. Ojakovo and maliciously damaged two vehicles in the compound with registration numbers 701 PTN and AG 678 EFR respectively.

The rampaging youths had in the process smashed to pieces the windscreens and door glasses of both cars.

Miss Okuwobi said the arrest of the 17 persons followed an identification by one of the complainants, describing the youth's action as politically-related since it was learnt that the council boss was seeking for re-election into the council even as she is the incumbent chairman of the area."

She said the situation is likely the handwork of the opposition bent to scuttling the ambition of the council chairman.