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The remains of the deceased were said to have Ondo State Government Hospital, Ode Irele.

Suspected gang members on rampage in Kogi after leader's killing

YINKA OLADOYINBO - LOKOJA

MEN of the Federal-Special Anti-Robbery Squad (F-SARS) operating in Kogi State have killed a suspected criminal, simply known as Lukman a.k.a Commander, who allegedly led his gang to attack the residence of the senator representing Kogi West Senatorial District, Senator Dino Melaye, in April.

However, following the development, members of his gang went on the rampage on Sunday, burning vehicles, while they also attacked a police post as well as the residence of the state Commissioner for Water Resources, Deedat Salami.

The Kogi State Police Command had declared Lukman wanted after some of his members were arrested in connection with the alleged murder attempt on Senator Melaye.

Nigerian Tribune

learnt in Lokoja, the state capital, on Monday that the suspected criminal, who hailed from Obeiba in Ihima, Okehi Local Government Area of the state, was killed on Sunday afternoon during an exchange of fire with men of the F-SARS from Abuja.

The security operatives were said to have stormed Obeiba at about 3:00p.m on Sunday in three Hilux vans and headed straight to the suspect's residence.

Eyewitnesses further disclosed that on sighting the security operatives, Lukman and members of his gang opened fire on them and were overpowered when F-SARS operatives responded.

He was subsequently hit, while many of his gang members were arrested.

The source stated further that Lukman's body was taken away by the security men.

The suspect was accused of being a criminal who had, on several occasions, kidnapped, killed and robbed people within and outside the state.

The gang members were also said to have destroyed the palace of a traditional ruler, the Obobanyi of Emani clan, Chief Samuel Onimisi.

The quick intervention of security men, especially the military and the police, restored peace in the community.

When contacted, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Wilson Inalegwu, confirmed that the suspected criminal was killed, while arrests were also made.

According to him, the suspect and his gang members opened fire on the SARS operatives, but was killed during the crossfire, while some of his gang members were arrested.

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of Police a couple of days after my nephew died.

"I told him Chief Athan has a case to answer. We are expected back at Asaba Tuesday or Wednesday.

"Chioma's father claimed he was not home when those at home raised an alarm of robbery at his residence at about 3:30a.m.

"The police who went there saw the place quiet under lock and key, but my brother who was supposed to be in with Chioma and his brother was the one killed by the robbers outside their gate? That story is too difficult to believe."

Father of Chioma, Chief Athan Iwuchukwu, a Special Assistant to former Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan on Non Indigenes Affairs, in whose house the deceased slept before his murder, declined comments on his armed robbery narrative, saying the matter was already before the police.