

Police smash inter-state armed robbery/kidnap syndicate in Ogun • Kill 2 suspects, arrest 2

BY OLUWATOYIN MALIK

It was jubilation at the Ogun State Police Command on Tuesday as the operatives of the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (F-SARS) killed a suspected member of armed bandits and arrested three of them.

One of the three suspects was also cut down when he allegedly tried to disarm an operative during a search for some of the gang's guns buried in a bush.

Recovered from them were seven AK-47 rifles, two pump-action guns, seven magazines, 110 rounds of live 7.62mm ammunition and 100 live cartridges.

The suspects' operations, according to the state Commissioner of Police, Ahmed Iliyasu, included kidnapping, armed robbery and cow rustling; and cut across the northern and southern part of Nigeria.

Speaking during a press briefing on Tuesday at the police command headquarters at Eleweran, Abeokuta,

Iliyasu said that intelligence gathering revealed that the armed bandits had arrived in the state for another op-

eration.

According to the police commissioner, "the targets of the armed suspects were

two businessmen identified as Alhaji Shehu and Alhaji Kabiru; and they had planned to either rob their

targets or kidnap them for a ransom.

Iliyasu said immediately he received the information,

he mandated the F-SARS operatives, led by their commander, SP Uba Adam, "to track, trail and round-up the hoodlums."

He added that the F-SARS operatives complied with the directive and technically trailed the bandits, accosting them in Abeokuta before they could get to their targeted victims.

"On sighting the police, the armed men engaged them in a gun battle, but later succumbed to superior firepower of the police.

"At the end of the gun battle, one of the suspects was shot dead while three others, identified as Yusuf Abdullahi, Ali Mohammed and Audu Isa, were arrested.

"Upon interrogation, the suspects confessed to have been involved in series of robbery and kidnapping operations in several states in the north and the south, and have given useful information to the police on their various escapades and planned operations," Iliyasu stated further.

He warned other criminals that the arrest was a signal



Ogun State Commissioner of Police, Ahmed Iliyasu, showing some of the weapons and ammunition recovered from the inter-state robbery/kidnap suspects



Two of the arrested suspects. PHOTOS: OLUWATOYIN MALIK