

3 Gang arrested for alleged killing of policeman in Ebonyi

THE police in Ebonyi State says it has arrested members of a youth gang that allegedly killed a policeman attached to a Chinese mining company in the state, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has reported.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Loveth Odah, made the disclosure in a statement issued in Abakaliki, on Thursday.

Odah said that the deceased officer's AK-47 rifle was also recovered.

The police spokesperson said: "On April 25, the site manager of Tongyl Mining Company, Mkpumakwuokuko, in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Mr Joel Osaghele, reported that a youth gang from the area attacked them.

"Osaghele, who was in company of a Chinese national, reported that the gang attacked them alongside three mobile police escorts as they were moving

the company's property from the site to Abakaliki.

"He said that the gang, led by one Ikechukwu (surname withheld), used logs to barricade the road at 'Four Corner junction' and it took the intervention of the village head, Sunday Nwamini, for the company's vehicles to pass," she said.

The PPRO said that the youths re-grouped and ambushed the company's vehicles again at Opefia junction and attacked the mobile policemen.

"They snatched the AK-47 rifle of Sergeant John Edeh, F/No: 442470, attached to 32 Police Mobile Force (PMF) Abakaliki, beat and stabbed him severally before shooting him on the head.

"Following the report, the Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) in the area mobilised and led a team to the scene where the two other mobile policemen were rescued.