

# Police nab kidnap kingpin in Benue

**Johnson Babajide | Makurdi**

A suspected leader of a gang of kidnappers that specialised in abducting women in Makurdi, Achobo (surname withheld), has been arrested by operatives of the Benue State police command.

Parading the suspect at the police headquarters in Makurdi on Monday, the command's Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, said the suspect was arrested few days after two other members of his gang

were arrested.

The suspect was said to have escaped when men of **Operation Zenda** stormed their hideouts in a house linked to a deceased former chief judge of the state.

Anene said: "If you remember, two members of his gang were apprehended in Makurdi in their hideout last week and they confessed to the crimes.

"Today, the kingpin was arrested by men of Operation Zenda; if you recall, the commissioner of police

promised to arrest the kingpin, and now he has been arrested and he confessed to the crimes."

The suspect, while speaking with newsmen, said the gang focused on abducting women because "they are easy to kidnap."

He, however, regretted causing the demolition of the house belonging to the former chief judge, who he described as his uncle.

The suspect said: "He (the late chief judge) was my uncle and I have been working

with his son for the past six years as sales boy selling tiles.

"I started the kidnap business last year; we are three and the other two have been arrested.

"I regret my action, especially causing the demolition of my uncle's house."

The state government had demolished the four bedroom house with a boy's quarter linked to the former chief judge where the suspects live and carried out their operations.