

# Suspected criminal who allegedly killed Kogi PDP woman leader shot dead by police

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② THE Joint Security Team in Kogi State has killed a notorious criminal, Kabir Bala, who was alleged to have burnt to death the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) woman leader in Ofu Local Government Area, Mrs Salome Abu, at her residence in November 2015.

The state Commissioner of Police, Akeem Yusuf, disclosed this on Thursday at the state police headquarters in Lokoja while addressing newsmen.

Yusuf said: "It will be recalled that the Kogi State government in October 2018 granted par-

don in prerogative of mercy as part of rehabilitation to one notorious gang leader named Kabir Bala alias (Okwo) in Ejule, Ofu LGA.

"However, the said Kabir Bala remained an unrepentant criminal with lots of atrocities traced to him which include dealing in illegal arms, kidnappings and killings in the state.

"Several cases had been traced to him, such as burning alive of Mrs Salome Abu, a PDP woman leader in Ofu Local Government Area at her residence at Ochadamu in November 2015, among others."

According to the police boss, based on the facts, a decision was reached at the State Security Council meeting held on June 20 that the state pardon granted to Kabir Bala in 2018 be revoked immediately, while security agencies must go after him and arrest him for prosecution, and also, all his known agents must be apprehended to face the law.

He said: "Joint operations should be set up comprising the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Nigeria Police, DSS, Civil Defence to go after Kabir Bala and his gang to arrest them and recover the arms in their

possession

"Today, 22 June, at about 4:30a.m in pursuit of the above, Bala and his gang members, on sighting the joint security team, opened fire on them.

"The team engaged the hoodlums and the said Kabir Bala was neutralised in the process, while other members of his gang escaped with varying degrees of injuries."

He said items recovered from his premises included one AK-47 rifle with three fully loaded magazines, six locally-fabricated weapons and two phones and charms.