

Weapons used to attack, kill ARISE journalist, security guard smuggled from Niger Republic —Police

Lawrence Bajah | Abuja

THE Nigeria Police Force (NPF) on Saturday disclosed that weapons recovered from armed robbery suspects responsible for the killing of a journalist with ARISE News, Ms. Somtochukwu Christella Maduagwu and a security guard, Mr. Barnabas Danlami, in Abuja, were brought into the country from Niger Republic.

The Force Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, disclosed this to newsmen on Saturday at the FCT Police Command Headquarters, Garki, while parading the

12 suspects in connection with the incident.

Hundeyin said intelligence and investigation further revealed that their firearms were sourced from a yet-to-be-identified supplier in Niger Republic, and that they had taken part in other robbery operations within Katampe I, Apo, Zuba, and other parts of the FCT.

"Investigations revealed that the fatal shot which claimed the life of the security guard was fired by one of the suspects, Shamsudeen Hassan, who stated that he shot the guard when the latter attempted to pre-

vent them from gaining access to the apartment complex.

"It was further revealed that their firearms were sourced from a yet-to-be-identified supplier in Niger Republic, and that they had taken part in other armed robbery operations within Katampe I, Apo, Zuba, and other parts of the FCT," Hundeyin said.

The Force PRO, who said the parade of the suspects was necessary to keep the public updated on the ongoing investigation, also gave details on how the suspects were arrested."

According to him, "Following the incident, operatives of the FCT Police Command immediately launched a coordinated intelligence-driven investigation. Through diligent efforts and extensive digital intelligence analysis, 12 suspects linked to the robbery were arrested.

"Exhibits recovered from the suspects included one locally fabricated AK-47 rifle, one locally-made pistol, one pump-action gun, 36 live rounds of 9mm ammunition, two live cartridges, four mobile phones, two sharp knives, one cutlass and two flashlights."