

Police kill one robber as hoodlums torch police stations

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AT least one robbery suspect was shot dead in Anambra State on Tuesday and four others wounded after an anti-robbery squad engaged a gang in a shootout in Onitsha.

Also, about 30 suspected hoodlums torched two police stations in the state in a bid to free their colleague, who was described as a hardened criminal, from police cell.

Investigations by our correspondent revealed that the development coincided with the torching of two police stations by suspected bandits in separate incidents at Ojoto, in Idemili Local Government Area of the state.

The unidentified deceased suspect, had allegedly in company with others still at large, attacked the occupants of a petrol tanker.

Our correspondent learnt that the tanker had discharged about 30, 000 litres of fuel at a filling-station

(name withheld) at Nkpor New Parts Market, and was returning to its destination when the suspects struck.

Detectives told our correspondent on Tuesday that the suspects thought that the occupants of the tanker had been paid the money for the petrol they discharged and had attacked them hoping to snatch it.

"But, our anti-robbery men were alerted to the incident and they raced to the scene immediately.

"There was heavy gun-battle as a result of which one of the suspects was killed; others believed to be between four and five, escaped with bullet wounds", one of the detectives explained.

Among the items recovered from the scene of the robbery were two magazines, one axe, one hammer and 55 expended cartridges.

The spokesman of the state Police Command, Mr. Fidelis Agbo, who confirmed the incident on Tuesday, said that the police "succeeded against the suspects with the aid of an Armoured Personnel Carrier."