

Six robbery suspects killed in Onitsha, Enugu

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THE police in Onitsha and Enugu killed six armed robbery suspects in both cities on Wednesday and Thursday.

The suspects in Onitsha were said to have been uncovered at a beer parlour at the Onitsha Government Reservation Area, where they had allegedly concluded a plan to carry out an operation in the state.

The beer parlour, which the police described as a "batcher" (makeshift structure), was located opposite Ben-J, a hotel.

Men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, led by Princewill Ekeocha, an assistant superintendent of police, had moved to the area but the suspects allegedly took to their heels on sighting the policemen.

The spokesman of the state police command, Mr. Fidelis Agbo, who

ces 53-year-old month imprisonment

cocaine concealed in her luggage.

She confessed to have received the luggage containing the drugs and clothes from her cousin, Seun Lawrence, who is based in Switzerland.

She added that she was asked to deliver it to one Tunse Bamidele in London with a promise of financial reward.

She further said she was informed by Seun that the drug in the bag was only 800 grammes of cocaine and that she did not know that the content was actually six kilogrammes.

She was arrested on April 20, 2007 when she was traveling to London.

confirmed the incident on Thursday, said, "The bandits were pursued, shot at, subdued and arrested.

"The wounded bandits were taken to the Onitsha General Hospital, where they later gave up the ghost while receiving treatment," he stated.

Agbo, a deputy superintendent of police, added that two locally-made double-barrelled pistols and three live cartridges were recovered from the suspects.

He said two Kymco motorcycles with registration numbers Anambra QL 589 ATN and Anambra UD 961 NNE, believed to have been snatched from their owners, were also recovered.

The police image maker called on persons who might have lost their motorbikes to robbers to visit the SARS office in Onitsha and check the recovered bikes.

Thursday's killings brought the number of suspected robbers gunned down by the police in Onitsha and environs since May 2007 to about 24.

The only suspect in Enugu was killed when a four-man gang was raiding some houses at Trans-Ekulu area of the city and men of the state police command stormed the area in response to distress calls from residents.

The gang engaged the police in a shoot-out, but the superior firepower of the security agents contained the attempts of the robbers, resulting in the felling of one of them and arrest of another member of the gang.

Police Public Relations Officer for the command, Mike Abattam, a deputy superintendent of police, confirmed the incident.