

# Drug trafficking: Five Nigerians arrested in Vietnam, seven in Nigeria

## Olaekan Adetayo with agency report

**V**ETNAMESE police have arrested five Nigerians in a probe into a smuggling ring suspected of trafficking heroin through the country from India to China.

"The suspects, including five Nigerians and four Vietnamese, have apparently transported a significant amount of drugs by air from India to Ho Chi Minh City," *Vietnam News Agency* reported late Wednesday.

Counter-narcotics officers had seized more than 2kg (4.4 pounds) of heroin, it said.

The drug ring allegedly used Vietnamese women to transport the heroin from Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, to the capital Hanoi and then to neighbouring China, the agency said.

The investigation into the "large-scale trafficking ring" is continuing as police interview more Nigerians.

In communist Vietnam, people found guilty of possessing more than 600g of heroin are usually sentenced to death.

Meanwhile, operatives of the National Drug Law

Enforcement Agency have arrested seven suspected cocaine smugglers at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos.

Four of the suspects were reported to be returning from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

## Bayelsa Police trail serial killer

**Olamilekan Lartey, Yenagoa**

**T**HE Bayelsa State Police Command is on the trail of a suspected serial killer who allegedly stabbed a woman and her daughter to death in their home, in Etegwe, Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital.

The Commissioner in charge of the command, Mr. Unuoha Udeka, confirmed the killing of the two women.

Our correspondent gathered that the victims were relatives of a police officer serving in one of the Northern States.

Family members said the killer was a security man that had been recently hired by the family.

They said there had been some dispute over the allowances to be paid to the

According to a statement on Thursday by the agency's spokesman, Mr. Mitchell Ofoyeju, three of the suspects- Enwereuzor Timothy, Igboeze Sunday, and Nleanya Emmanuel-were arrested on Wednesday during the inward screening of

security guard.

The family had offered N15,000, but the guard insisted on N20,000.

It was not clear what happened, but family members, particularly one Bumiegha Jarius, who survived the incident by running into the house and locking herself up, said the guard had arrived and stabbed her sister who went to open the gate for him.

According to Jarius, when the suspect stabbed Koreakegha, his first victim, the next person to arrive the scene, Pamela Makpa, was also stabbed.

Jarius said she fled into the house for safety when she saw the two bodies in a pool of blood.

The bodies have already been deposited at the morgue of the Niger Delta University

passengers.

Ofoyeju said that all the suspects were found to have ingested wraps of substances that tested positive to cocaine.

He quoted the NDLEA Airport Commander, Mr. Victor Cole-Showers, as saying that the latest suspects

Teaching Hospital.

Family sources told our correspondent that the guard had disappeared since the incident.

They, however, urged the police to interrogate the neighbour (name withheld) that introduced the guard to the family.

## Three robbery suspects in police net

**Chukwudi Akasike, Uyo**

**T**HE Akwa Ibom State Police Command has arrested three armed robbers that have been terrorising Abak Local Government Area and Uyo, the state capital.

One of the suspects identified as Emediong Bassey, alias 'Ojuelegba' was said to have been on the wanted list of the police for over a year.

The other two suspects, who are currently cooling off in

are under observation until the drugs are completely discharged from their stomachs.

Timothy was said to have arrived from Dubai on board Qatar Airways flight at about 2pm Nigerian time while Sunday and Emmanuel were both apprehended at about 9pm on board a South African Airways flight from Brazil.

Iwueze Chinedu, and Dike Lawrence were reportedly caught while smuggling 870g and 1.340 kg of cocaine from Brazil.

Okafor Chukwuemeka and Eze Emmanuel were however nabbed with 2.05 kg

police custody, were identified as Kyini Boniface and Otomobong Edet.

Speaking on the arrest of the hoodlums, the command's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Gab Ngban, said that Bassey was arrested in Abak on Tuesday after a failed attempt to snatch a motorcycle from an unsuspecting member of the public.

Ngban recalled how Bassey and members of his gang killed a police corporal last year,

and 1.273 kg on their way to Dusseldorf in Germany and Guangzhou in China.

The suspected traffickers are believed to be working with international drug syndicates.

Sunday, a trader who ingested 86 wraps of narcotics, said that he invested \$4,500 into the illicit drug deal.

He also imported two bags of Brazilian shoes as a cover up.

Emmanuel that claimed to be selling children toys in Brazil for over five years also stated that he invested \$6,000 into the illegal transaction. He is married to a Brazilian woman and has a son.

adding that the long arm of the law has caught up with the kingpin.

Expressing satisfaction that Bassey had finally been arrested, the state police spokesman explained that many crimes had been traced to him in the past.

"Ojuelegba has been on our wanted list for the past one year now. He committed a lot of serious crimes in the past, but he was finally caught when he tried snatching a motorcycle from a man," Ngban stated.