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Robbers kill 4 cops, burn two police vans in Anambra

By Emmanuel Obe, Published: Wednesday, 3 Mar 2010

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Four policemen have been killed and two patrol vans belonging to the police burnt by armed robbers on the Onitsha - Owerri expressway, the police command said in Awka on Tuesday.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the Anambra State Command, Mr. Agboola Oshodi-Glover, told reporters that the armed robbers also dispossessed the policemen of their weapons.

Oshodi-Glover spoke as he paraded 27 suspects arrested in Anambra State in the last three weeks for kidnapping, armed robbery and attempted murder.

The DCP, who said the state had been relatively peaceful since the last governorship election, said nine people were arrested when they attempted to kidnap a businessman in Awka, the state capital.

He said the suspects were arrested with the help of the local vigilance group, which intercepted the suspects and promptly alerted the police.

The police chief said one suspect had sent a threat letter enclosing two live AK47 ammunition to his victim and asked him to produce N500,000 in recharge cards.

Oshodi-Glover said the suspect warned that his target would be dealt with should he fail to comply with the threat. Oshodi said the suspect and one of his accomplices were arrested while a third suspect was on the run.

He said two armed robbery suspects who had confessed to participating in several operations in Onitsha and neighbouring communities were arrested after robbing one lady on Owerri road of her Nokia handset and N16,000 at gunpoint.

"During interrogation, the two suspects confessed to the crime and incriminated one Oschor whose real name is yet unknown and is now at large as their gang leader," he said.

Oshodi-Glover said two young men who allegedly specialised in stealing cars were arrested along Nkpor - Ugwu Nwasike - Ogidi road with a stolen Golf car and assorted car keys. He said the owner of the Golf car has since come forward to claim it.

He alleged that a former student of the University of Calabar, Mr. Franklin Onwuekwue, resident at Omaba Onitsha was caught with an English Barretta pistol with 23 rounds of ammunition.

He said the suspect denied being an armed robber, but a member of the KK campus cult.

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