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Rivers: Police parade five suspected robbers, three kidnappers

JULY 17, 2014 BY CHUKWUDI AKASIKE, PORT HARCOURT 1 COMMENT



The Rivers State Police Command on Thursday paraded five armed robbery suspects who had allegedly been terrorising [Port Harcourt](#) and its environs.

State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ahmad Mohammad, said the suspects, who had been terrorising Port Harcourt and its environs, were arrested in connection with robbery operations in Aluu, Diobu and Trans-Amadi in the state capital.

Mohammad, who spoke with newsmen at the command, identified the suspects as Goodnews Ezaru, Alexander Chibuike, Chimerenu Amadi, Godswoll Umem and Chinedu Oguike.

He disclosed that apart from one assault rifle with 30 rounds of ammunition, two magazines, one pump action gun with 22 live cartridges and an iron cutter that were recovered from the suspects, a locally made revolver pistol, three motorcycles and a marathon pistol were also picked up from them.

The state police spokesman added that five members of the armed robbery gang were killed during a shootout with operatives of the State Anti-Robbery Squad on Ada-George Road.

Also paraded at the state police command were three kidnap suspects identified as Anderson Alex, Samuel Fineface and Emmanuel Owiko.

One Mary Amadi was apprehended by the police for threatening to kidnap Chukueruka Rachael of Wazobia FM if she (Rachael) failed to pay the sum of N15m to her.

Meanwhile the Rivers State Police Commissioner, Mr. Tunde Ogunsakin, has promised that his command would be proactive in stopping the infiltration of Boko Haram members into the state through the support of stakeholders.

Ogunsakin who spoke during the third sensitisation meeting with stakeholders, expressed the need for everybody to be united in the fight against insecurity.

He said, "As far as the security of the state is concerned, my doors are open. You can call any of the dedicated lines provided by the command to alert us of any distress or complaints or get to us through text messages.

"As directed by the Inspector-General of Police, the current sensitisation of stakeholders will also be replicated at the area commands. In furtherance of the IGP's directive, all area commanders have been directed to begin similar sensitisation in their various commands."

Participants at the stakeholders' meeting are Christian and Muslim leaders; chairmen of market associations; chairmen of road transport workers, and security managers of multinational oil companies among others.

Ogunsakin, who later responded to questions from participants, said vigilante groups were useful in the fight against terrorism, adding that they (vigilante) were expected to operate under the police.

According to him, "Vigilante groups can complement the work of the police. Since the police cannot be everywhere, vigilante groups can assist to apprehend suspects and hand them over to the police.

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