

**Afeez Hanafi**

No fewer than 13 suspected militants have been arrested in connection with the killing of four policemen, a Nigerian Army Captain, and two residents, in the Ishawo, Ikorodu area of Lagos State.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that the suspects, whose identities had yet to be disclosed, were arrested in a joint operation by men of the Anti-Kidnapping Squad and the Rapid Response Squad of the Lagos State Police Command.

Our correspondent had reported that a police team from the Owutu Police Division and some military officers, led by one Captain Mohammed, had responded to a distress call to rescue residents kidnapped by suspected militants on April 9, 2017.

The security agents were returning from the operation when the assailants lay in ambush and opened fire on them.

Four policemen, identified as Inspector Iroagbalachi Godwin (aka *Apostle*), Inspector Pemi Francis, Sergeant Dembo Mamodu, and Sergeant Udoh Okoro; the military Captain, and two residents, were killed in the process.

After sustained surveillance around the creek, the Inspector-General of Police Intelligence Response Team tracked the alleged mastermind of the killings, Endurance Ominisan (aka *Mighty*), to his girlfriend's apartment on Joel Adebolu Street, Ibeshe, Ikorodu.

While attempting to escape through the roof, he allegedly shot at the operatives, who responded accordingly.

He later died at the Ikorodu General Hospital from injuries sustained during the shootout.

On Wednesday, policemen and members of a local vigilance group, led by the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Fatai Owoseni, and the RRS Commander, ACP Olatunji Disu, commenced destruction of shanties on the waterfront, which were being used as hideouts by the militants.

It was gathered that the team, including the state marine police and the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, arrested 13 suspects during raids in the creek.

A police source said, “The raids started immediately after the attack; but we didn’t make a headway on time because of the difficulty in accessing the camps. The terrain is volatile. The 13 suspects were arrested this week.”

Owoseni, who confirmed the arrests, said the suspects were being interrogated to determine their level of involvement in the crime.

He added they had given some lead on how to track other fleeing members of the gang.

He said, “Following the attack that occurred at Ishawo where we lost four of our policemen and an army Captain, we have deployed operatives in the water. Quality arrests have been made and we are talking to the suspects. We have got some evidence from them and they are talking to us.

“Earlier this morning (Wednesday), we were able to get to the proper camps of these criminal elements where some of them were cooking food. They fled immediately they saw the combined team. The destruction of the camps is ongoing. The officers that are handling the destruction will share the story at the end of the operation.

“We want to assure members of the public that these people have murdered sleep and they will not sleep. We will ensure they are all rooted out.”

Commending the vigilantes for leading operatives into the creek, the CP said all the suspects would be made to face the full wrath of the law.