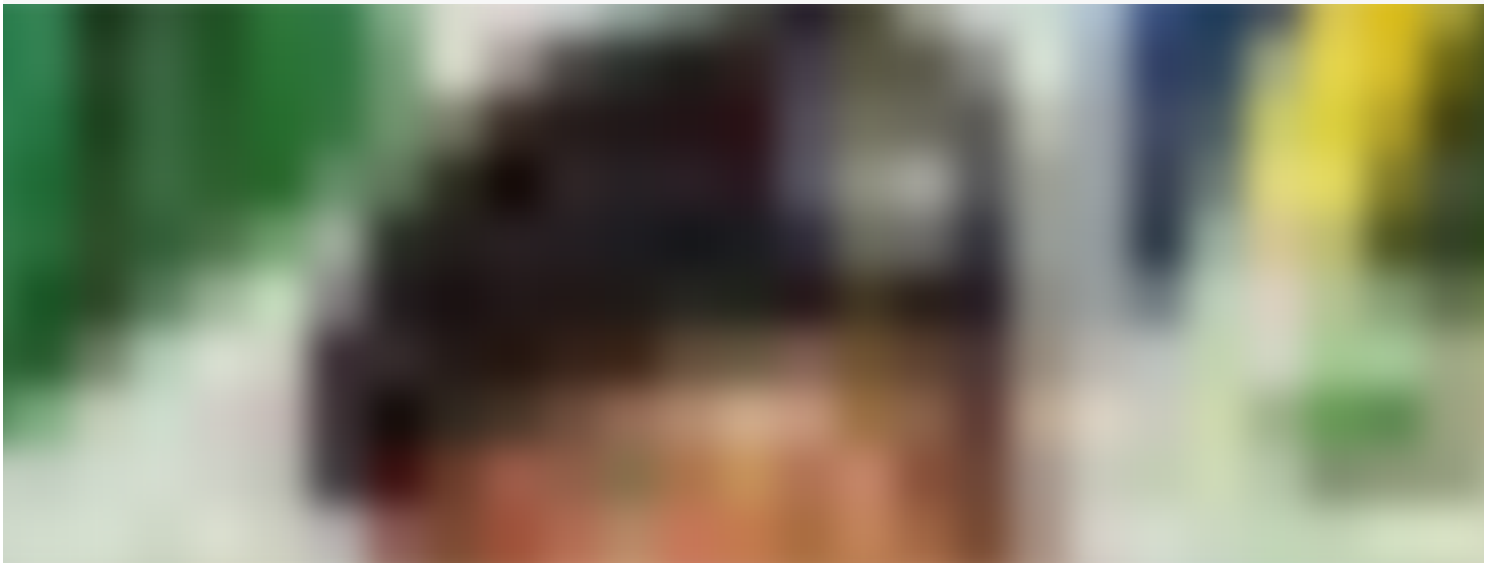


METRO PLUS

Imo: Two robbers killed in shootout with police

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Imo State Commissioner of Police, Chris Ezike

Gibson Achonu and Chidiebube Okeoma

Two robbers have been shot dead, following a shootout with the police in Imo State.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Chris Ezike, who confirmed the development to *SUNDAY PUNCH*, said the incident occurred on the Uburukwu-Isu-Njaba-Orlu route.

According to the police boss, the command received distress calls from some concerned members of the public that some gunmen were operating in the area to Orlu town.

Four robbers were said to be involved in the attack on commuters, including one Mrs. Chinyere Alfred, who had withdrawn N50,000 from a nearby bank.

Ezike said during the gun battle, two of the robbers sustained bullet wounds and died on the way to the hospital, while the two others escaped.

belonging to some of the victims were recovered as exhibits.”

Ezike said a manhunt for the fleeing robbers had commenced.

Meanwhile, the command, on Friday, said it would deploy 600 police officers for the November 18 governorship election in Anambra State.

Ezike told journalists at the command headquarters in Owerri that the deployment was not only in compliance with the directives of the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Ibrahim Idris, but in keeping with the policy of joint and collaborative efforts to achieve results.

The CP, who also paraded over 50 suspects involved in different crimes, noted that as Yuletide was fast approaching, the command would redouble its efforts to fight crime to the lowest ebb.

Some of those paraded were Iheoma Chidinma (14) of Mgbirichi; Lekwuwa Ogbuji (32) of Umuogwa Ocha Awara; Amaechi Ikechukwu (23) of Umunne Awara and Clement Onyeama (30) of Umuoguzu; all in the Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of the state, who were said to be members of the dreaded *Dee Gbam* cult group arrested on September 26 in connection with the murder of one Oguegbu Offurum on September 8.

Ezike stated that they were apprehended while carrying out an initiation.

He said, “The said victim (Offurum) was returning from the market and ran into them on the initiation ground. They quickly blocked the victim, took him into the bush, killed him and severed his head from the body.

The bodiless head was later recovered on September 8, 2017 by the operatives at the shrine in Awara.”

Also paraded were Obinna Eze (31), Oluchi Chibike (32), Vitalis Lumanze (40), Nkiru Nwanedu (45), Chinyere Nwudu (43) and Jacinta Amadi (45) for allegedly kidnapping Francis Nwachukwu (5), Chinaza Nwachukwu (2) and Abigail Ukah (34) with the intention to kill the latter and sell the former.

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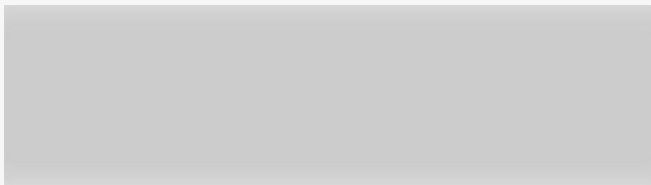
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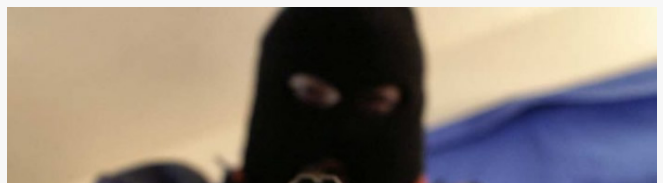
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