

METRO PLUS

## Police kill three, recover arms from fleeing robbers

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### Etim Ekpimah, Uyo

Police operatives from the headquarters of the Akwa Ibom State Police Command, Ikot Akpanabia, have killed three suspected armed robbers, who specialised in robbing students and residents of the University of Uyo host communities of Ikpa Road, Ikpa Lane, Idak Okpo and neighbouring communities.

It was learnt that the three criminals met their Waterloo shortly after they had dispossessed some students of their laptops, phones, cash and other valuables around the students' community.

An eyewitness explained that over 20 armed youths stormed the area at about 2am and robbed students and residents at will.

“I was caught in the web, but could not do anything to escape the rampaging hoodlums, who cordoned off the area and dispossessed residents fearlessly,” he said.

Our correspondent gathered on Sunday that the police Quick Response Unit at the traffic light by the university gate, few metres away from the scene of the incident, were unable to respond to the situation, as the hoodlums robbed and raped for about two hours – from 2.00am to 4.15am.

A victim and student, Effiong Denis, said the hoodlums robbed him of his laptop and phone. He added that it was a Good Samaritan that called the state Anti-Robbery Squad, whose men came all the way from the headquarters to dislodge the hoodlums.

He noted that some of the robbers fled through the bush into the University of Uyo ravine to escape the superior firepower of the SARS team.

According to him, the criminals first launched an attack as soon as they sighted SARS operatives, who responded with superior firepower around the Saint Joseph Primary School, Ikpa Road, and chased them into the ravine.

Sporadic and random shootings into the ravine, according to a vigilante, Imo Essien, led to the killing of one person, while the remains of two others, who escaped with bullet wounds, were also recovered later by the locals around the jungle by the Cornelia Connelly College Junction, along Ikpa Road.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Odiko Macdon, who confirmed the incident, said the criminals abandoned a locally-made pistol, many stolen items, including phones and laptops, which were later recovered by the police.

He said, “I am aware of the incident. One person has been arrested, and investigation is ongoing to track down the perpetrators.”

He appealed to the local residents to cooperate with the police by volunteering information on suspicious characters around their neighbourhoods for quick police action.

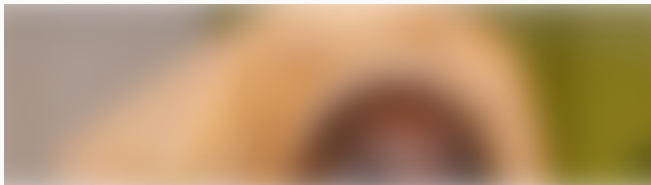
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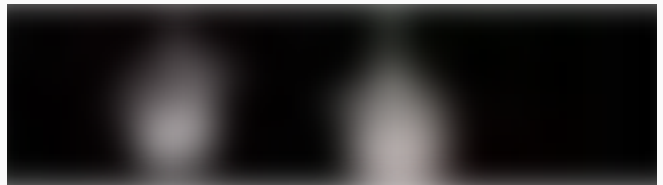
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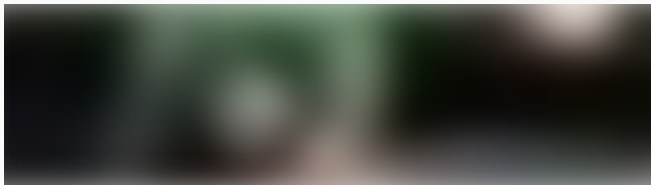
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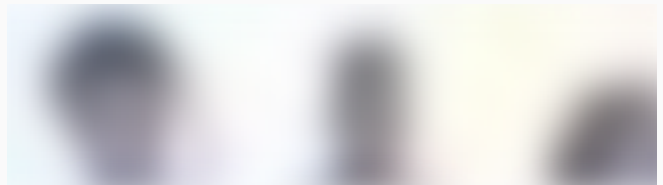
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