

Three suspects killed, cops detained as Cross River detainees escape

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Jimoh

Ada Wodu, Calabar

Three detainees have been gunned down, while three others succeeded in escaping from police custody in Calabar, the Cross River State capital.

The state Police Commissioner, Abdulkadir Jimoh, confirmed the incident on Monday in a statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Irene Ugbo.

Jimoh, however, denied speculations that 19 suspects escaped.

The statement titled, 'Re: Escape from lawful custody', said, "On December 13, 2020, around 5am, seven detainees, who were in the custody of one of the command's outfits for various offences, escaped from the cell. However, three of them died in the process of escaping, while one was re-arrested.

"Meanwhile, efforts are being made to re-arrest other fleeing suspects. By this announcement, the command urges mischief makers to always confirm facts and figures before sending such for public consumption as this can cause panic or unnecessary tension in the state."

Ugbo had earlier said the girlfriend of one of the suspects procured the saw, which was used to cut the cell's lock, before they escaped.

It was gathered that as a result of the incident, which occurred on Sunday, the station guard and some other officers were being detained.

Meanwhile, men of the command have arrested five suspected members of a robbery gang after they allegedly stabbed a man, Umoh Ekanem, to death on Saturday.

Sources said the incident happened on Asang Eniong Street, off Goldie Street, opposite the late paramount ruler's house in Calabar South, Cross River State.

According to sources, when the suspects invaded the victim's family house, Umoh resisted the first one, who wanted to attack his elder brother's wife.

It was gathered that as Umoh was about to overpower the robber, a member of the gang stabbed him in the chest, while another shot at him several times.

The victim's brother, Ita Ekanem, who confirmed the incident, said Umoh died on the way to hospital.

"So far, five of them have been arrested and are being detained by the police in Calabar," Ita stated.

When contacted, Ugbo, said, "I am not aware of that incident. Nobody has briefed me about it."

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