

# Troops kill A' Ibom kidnap kingpin, rescue two victims

Patrick Odey, Uyo

**T**ROOPS of the 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, in a combined operation with the police and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, on Wednesday, raided a kidnappers' hideout in Akwa Ibom and killed a suspected kingpin, Otobong Moses, alias Otoabasi.

The Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, 2 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Capt. Samuel Akari, who stated this while briefing journalists after the raid on Obon Ebot in the Etim Ekpo Local



•The suspects

Government Area, said two kidnap victims were rescued while two members of the gang were arrested.

Akari listed recovered items to

include: one sub-machine gun and magazine, 67 rounds of 9MM ammunition, two motorcycles, 16 mobile phones, one AK-47 rifle magazine with 30 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition and nine machetes.

Two military monkey jackets, one helmet strapped with military camouflage uniform, two pairs of military camouflage uniform, one military police beret, one police camouflage fez cap, one military pull over, an ATM card, two TV sets, a standing fan, a decoder and four generators were also recovered.

"The first phase of the operation was conducted on May 12. During the operations, troops raided the criminal hideout; but on sighting the troops, the criminals abandoned their hideout and fled.

"The gallant troops rescued the kidnapped victims and arrested two collaborators of the criminal kingpin, while the shrine, hideout and assorted charms were set ablaze by the troops.

"Further investigation revealed that the criminal gang is known for terrorising the locals, kidnapping, killing and burying their victims, who do not do their biddings in shallow graves in the general area," Akari added.

## Kidnapping: ABSU students, lecturers protest, destroy checkpoints



• Some of the protesters  
Sunday Nwakanma,  
Umuahia



Uturu Road of less than three kilometres had about 12 checkpoints mounted by the police, prison officials, and the army.

TAFF and students of the Abia