

Delta police kill wanted robber, recover pistol

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By Matthew Ochei

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The Delta State Police Command has killed a suspected armed robber who had reportedly been on the command's wanted list over attacks on police personnel and residents.

The state police spokesman, DSP Bright Edafe, disclosed this is a statement on Wednesday.

He said, "On August 2, 2022, operatives attached to the Rapid Response Squad while on a surveillance patrol on 74, Anwai-Illah Road, Asaba, the state capital, were attacked by armed hoodlums.

"The operatives quickly took cover and engaged the marauders in a serious gun battle, thereby forcing them to a retreat.

"In the ensuing gun duel, one of the suspects, later identified as Japhet, who had been on the command's wanted list for involvement in numerous attacks on police personnel, sustained gunshot injuries.

"He was taken to a hospital where he gave up the ghost while receiving treatment."

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Edafe said items recovered from the suspect included one locally-fabricated Beretta pistol with two 9mm live ammunition and one motorcycle with number plate, WKP 270 QW, abandoned by other gang members.

He added that a manhunt for the fleeing gang members was ongoing.

In another development, a middle-aged man, Precious Azuka, was arrested by the police for allegedly threatening people in a hotel in the Umunede area of the state.

According to Edafe, a distress call was received from the Dominion Hotel & Suit, Umunede, that the suspect was threatening their customers with a gun.

He said a patrol team attached to the Umunede division was deployed in the scene, where the suspect, upon sighting the police, took to his heels and was chased and arrested.

The police spokesman said one locally-made cut-to-size gun was recovered from him, while investigation was ongoing.