Gbenga Odogun, Lokoja

HE Joint Security Team in Kogi State has killed a notorious criminal, Kabir Bala, linked to the death of the woman leader of the Peoples Democratic Party Salome Abu.

The state Commissioner of Police. Akeem Yusuf, while addressing newsmen on Thursday, said Bala met his Waterloo at Ejule, in the Ofu Local Government Area of the state on Wednesday.

He said, "It would be recalled that the Kogi State Government. in October 2018, granted pardon in the prerogative of mercy as part of rehabilitation to one notorious gang leader named Kabir Bala, aka Okwo, in Ejule, Ofu LGA.

"However, the said Kabir Bala remained an unrepentant criminal with lots of atrocities traced to him which includes dealing in illegal arms, kidnappings and killings in the



Yusuf

Unerwu Sule on April 20, 2022. Several cases had been traced at Ejule.' to him such as the burning alive Yusuf explained that Bala of Mrs Salome Abu, a PDP also killed five Fulani herders

woman leader in Olu LGA, in her including Ibrahim, Haruna and residence on November 2015, at Shuaibu Wang on Alloma Road. Ochadamu, and the killing of two in the Ofu LGA in April 2022, gala youths, Umoru Abeh and and Muhammed and Dauda on

March 3, 2023.

He said, "Other crimes committed by Kabir Bala and his gang included an attack on troops of the Nigerian Navy and dispossessing them of four rifles at the Alloma village on March 4, 2022. However, the firearms were later returned to the Navy following a high-powered intervention.

"Attack on Elisha Aya, a pastor and founder of the Kingdom Faith Assembly, Ejule, on March 18, 2022, who later paid N1m to Bala as a levy for establishing a church; invasion of Egane Fulani settlement; burning of 213 huts: rustled 122 cows on December 25, 2022, and assault on the Lord's Chosen Church, Eiule, on January 29, 2023, for disturbing his hotel with their service. during which a worshipper, Joy Abuh, sustained a gunshot injury on her left hand."

The police boss said Bala was also responsible for seven kidnappings along Itobe-

Pardoned ex-convict killed for burning Kogi politician to death

Anyigba Highway from May 5 to 28, 2023.

According to him, based on the above facts, the decision reached at the state security council meeting held on June 20, 2023, that the state pardon granted to Bala in 2018 be revoked immediately while security agencies must go after him and arrest him immediately for prosecution alongside known accomplices.

He added, "Joint operations should be set up comprising the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Nigeria Police, DSS, and Civil Defence, to go after Kabir Bala and his gang to arrest them and recover the arms in their possession.

"Today, June 22, 2023, around

04.30am in pursuit of Kabir Bala and his gang members, on sighting the joint security team, opened fire on them and started shooting sporadically.

"The team engaged the hoodlums and Kabir Bala was neutralised in the process while other members of his gang escaped with varying degrees of injury."

He said items recovered from his premises included one AK 47 rifle with three fully loaded magazines, six locally-fabricated weapons and two phones and charms

He noted that the ongoing onslaught against criminal activities would be sustained to ensure the safety of lives and properties in the state.

Abuja fraudster jailed for impersonating FBI agent

Aligh Court in the Federal Capital Territory, on Thursday, sentenced a suspect, Okwo Mark, to three months in prison for impersonating an American citizen, Stella Coleman, working as an FBI

According to the News Agency of Nigeria, the defendant who perpetrated the crime was arraigned by the EFCC.

Mark pleaded guilty to the charge and begged the court for leniency.

Delivering the judgment, Justice Aliyu Shafa, sentenced Mark to three months imprisonment or to pay a fine of N50,000.

The judge also ordered Mark to clean the EFCC office from 8am till noon under the supervision of an official of the legal department.

He ordered that the phone used by the convict to perpetrate the crime be destroyed, adding that it should be burnt and evidence of the destruction

should be brought before the court.

"I have carefully listened to the plea of allocutus made by the said convict and the defence counsel

"The rate of internet fraud especially among youths in the society is so alarming and the court will not allow the convict to go unpunished as this will serve as a deterrent to others that want to toll the same path," he ruled.

According to the News

man who was cut up with bad company. He is just 21 years old with a promising future. He regrets the consequences of his act.

"The convict has shown remorse and genuinely repented over the crime he has committed against the nation, by way of expressing genuine repentance. he has restituted the proceeds of the crime which is the sum of 500 U.S dollars. The convict is a first-time offender. We urge my Lord to temper justice with