

# A'Ibom armed robbery kingpin killed in police gun battle

12th August 2025



FILE: A Nigerian policeman

| By Patrick Odey

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Operatives of the Akwa Ibom State Police Command have neutralised a notorious robbery kingpin, one Imoh Akpan, from Ikot Uboh village in Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area of the state.

A statement by the command's Public Relations Officer, DSP Timfon John, in Uyo on Monday said the suspect was already in custody and leading the operatives to their hideout, which also served as the gang's armoury in Mbiaso village.

The command's spokesperson disclosed that the operatives on arrival at the scene were met with gunfire from the other gang members, adding that in the ensuing exchange of gunfire, the suspect attempted to escape and was hit by an operative's bullet.

The statement reads in part, "On August 9, 2025, at approximately 11:00pm, operatives of the command successfully neutralised a suspected notorious armed robbery gang leader, Imoh Gavin Akpan, from Ikot Uboh village.

"Akpan, who had been a key figure in numerous armed robberies and acts of terror in Ikot Ekpene and its surrounding areas, was shot during an exchange of gunfire with the police.

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"The operation began when Akpan, who was in police custody, led the team to a hideout in Mbiaso village that served as the gang's armoury. Upon arrival, the police were met with gunfire from other gang members.

"During the ensuing shootout, Akpan attempted to escape and was hit by a bullet. He was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment, but was pronounced dead on arrival by a medical doctor. His body has been deposited at the hospital's mortuary for an autopsy."

She said an investigation was ongoing, and efforts had been intensified to apprehend the remaining members of the fleeing gang.

Items recovered from the hideout included a locally-made shotgun, two expended cartridges, and one live cartridge.