

We strangulate victims after collecting ransom –Kidnap suspects

Operatives of Special Anti-Robbery Squad, (SARS) in Anambra State have apprehended two members of a deadly kidnapping gang. The suspects are a 21-year-old Nonso Obukezie and Nnamekwu Uderike Sylvester. The Anambra State Commissioner of Police, Usman Gwary said the two suspects belong to a five-man kidnapping gang, which is notorious for strangulating its victims after collecting ransom from their families. Speaking on the activities of the gang, Gwary said the group kidnapped an elderly man at Umuleri in November 2013 and kept him in the bush for six days before they strangulated him after collecting N1.2million ransom from members of his family.

Gwary also listed other victims of the gang to include one Francis Ezenni who was kidnapped at Adazi - Ani. According to him, Ezenni who is 65-year-old was the gang's only lucky victim. "In December 2013 they kidnapped the man and kept him at Aguleri and the victim spent one day with them. I ordered the Commander of SARS, Supol James Nwafor (CSP) with his team to pursue the kidnappers and they were able to rescue the victim from the kidnappers without the family having to pay any ransom."



•Suspects

Speaking further, Gwary said in October 2013 at Asaba, Delta State the gang kidnapped a businessman and some other victims. They collected ransom running into millions of naira, yet they strangulated the victim and abandoned his corpse in the bush.

He stated further that they kidnapped a man and kept him in Awka and strangulated him after ransom had been paid.

One of the suspects, Nonso Obukezie who hails from Enugwu Aguleri, Anambra State confessed that the gang was involved in several kidnappings in which they strangulated their

victims after collecting ransom from their families.

"In any kidnapping that I carried out with my gang, I usually have my own share of the ransom. I took part in kidnapping Francis Ezenni who we abducted when he was coming back from the church. We kidnapped him and while we were demanding for ransom, the SARS came and had an encounter with my other gang members," he stated, adding that, "they shot some of our gang leaders like Uderike Sylvester a.k.a. Awolowo, Iki Chin-edu and Chikodili. I escaped to Kogi State before I was arrested



•Ezenni

later in March 2014," he stated.

Corroborating Obukezie, the second suspect said, "We have been involved in various kidnappings. What we do is that when we kidnap victims, we always strangulate them, except Pa Ezenni was kidnapped while returning from church. We took



•Gwary, Anambra State CP

him to our hideout in Enugu State before the SARS Policemen came and rescued him."

The victim narrated his ordeal in the hands of his abductors to *Sunday Sun*. "They abducted me when I was coming back from church and demanded for N10 million. They chained me and told me to call my children to send the money to them. I was spending the second day with them when the police came to rescue me. They had serious shoot-out with the kidnappers. Some escaped with bullet wounds while they arrested two of them," he said.

Gwary said his men were on the trail of the remaining members of the gang adding that arrested members of the gang had confessed to the crime.