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Arrest 3 suspected cultists for killing ASP, 3 others

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BY OUR REPORTER ON APRIL 4, 2014

NATIONAL

From TONY JOHN, Port Harcourt

The Rivers State Police Command has arrested three men suspected to be involved in the killing of an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) and three civilians in the state.

The suspects, Henry aka Shola, Ugochukwu and Oguchi (surnames withheld), suspected to be cult members, were alleged to have been involved in the death of ASP David Oyegbule and other criminal activities.

Addressing newsmen yesterday, at the Mini Okoro Police Station, Port Harcourt, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Tunde Ogunsakin, said that the three suspects were arrested on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Ogunsakin stated that in February 2007, two notorious cult groups terrorized Omuagwa and Ibba communities in the state, causing mayhem at a burial in the former community.

"The two cult groups are De-Gbam and Icelanders. The clash resulted into harming and injuring many innocent people and burning down several buildings. Also, one Police officer, ASP David Oyegbule, attached to SOS (Swift Operations Squad), was shot and killed instantly by the cultists," he said.

According to the state police boss, tracking down the suspects since that incident had proved abortive and recently, the same groups clashed again in Emohua, where they allegedly killed three other persons.

"Since then, all efforts by the police to track them down have been difficult. Last week, at Ibba in Emohua, the same cult groups clashed again and killed three people. The police swung into action and at the early morning today (Wednesday) at about 1:20am, Police tracked down and arrested three of the wanted cultists/robbers."

Items recovered from the suspects were one locally-made pistol, a long range locally-made gun and a

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machete.

In a related development, the state Police Command had intercepted three trucks, two of which were fully loaded with contents identified to be crude oil.

Three suspects namely, Jonathan (42), Bernard (28) and Sunny (surnames withheld), were arrested in connection with the oil theft.

Meanwhile, the state Police Command had reiterated its commitment to fight against oil bunkering and other forms of economic sabotage in the state.

The police commissioner warned: "We are very unrelenting in our bid to put an end to this national menace. I want to use this medium to warn and advise perpetrators of oil theft to desist from their unscrupulous act or be ready to face the full wrath of the law, if they are apprehended".

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