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PREMIUM ADS

Two shot dead as Customs, rice smugglers clash

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BY OUR REPORTER ON FEBRUARY 24, 2015

COVER, NATIONAL

From SEGUN OLATUNJI, Abeokuta

Two persons were yesterday killed in Sango area of Ogun State during a shoot-out between Customs officers and some suspected rice smugglers. One other person was also shot and seriously injured.

Crime Watch Today gathered that the incident occurred when Customs officials from the Federal Operations Unit (FOU), Ikeja, Lagos arrested a convoy of 10 vehicles loaded with rice at Joju Junction in Sango.

Eye-witnesses said while the confiscated vehicles loaded with the contraband were being escorted by armed Customs men, an attempt by some of the alleged smugglers to escape arrest resulted in the shoot-out in which the three victims were hit by stray bullets.

One of the victims was said to have died on the spot while the other gave up the ghost as he was being conveyed to the hospital. The third victim who sustained serious gunshot injuries, was said to be receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital.

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Ogun State Command of the Customs, Abubakar Usman, said the operatives involved in the clash were not from the state. Usman noted that the Customs men were actually from FOU.

According to him, "what happened was that there was a small clash between our men and some suspected smugglers. They were not even from the Ogun Area Command, they were from the Federal Operations Unit."

The Ogun Customs spokesman, however, denied that five people were killed, saying, "no, it's not true, I spoke with the PRO of the FOU, he confirmed that though there were some casualties, but they were not up

to five. Nobody had died as at the time I spoke with him, but he said he's still gathering some information

on the incident.”

Usman did not fulfill his promise to avail *Crime Watch Today* the phone number of the spokesman of FOU at press time.

Delta police kill four robbers

From PAUL OSUYI, Asaba

Four suspected armed robbers have been shot dead by the police in Delta State while various arms and ammunition were recovered.

Two of the deceased suspects were killed at Owanta, another suspect met his waterloo at P.T.I Junction in Warri just as the fourth suspect was gunned down at Ozoro.

Public Relations Officer of the state police command, DSP Celestina Kalu, who confirmed the development in a statement, said the hoodlums always opened fire on the security operatives who responded with superior fire power and killing of the bandits.

In one of the encounters, Kalu said the police received information that hoodlums numbering over 15 were operating at an hotel in Ozoro and quickly dispatched a combined team of Police/Army patrol with vigilante men to the scene.

“On sighting the security team, the hoodlums opened fire on them, and in the process, one Otuke Othimue (male) a vigilante man was shot and wounded; one of the hoodlums yet to be identified, was shot dead while others escaped,” she said.

Kalu explained that on February 21, 2015 operatives attached to Ebrumede Division received a distress call that armed robbers were operating at P.T.I junction and mobilized to the scene, but were confronted by the bandits in a gun battle which led to the death of one of them.

Kalu stated that security operatives were also confronted by a gang of three armed robbers who were attempting to dispossess a woman of her motorcycle.

According to her, two of the suspects were killed, noting that other members of the gang in the encounters escaped, adding that efforts have been intensified at various divisions of the command to apprehend the fleeing criminals.

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