

Kingpin killed in shoot-out with police

• Suspect led gang that abducted judge - CP

From **Emmanuel Adeyemi**, Lokoja

A suspected kidnap kingpin, Aliyu Isa (aka Osama) has been shot dead by police during a gun duel in Kogi State.

Addressing newsmen yesterday in Lokoja, the state capital, Police Commissioner Samuel Ogunjemilusi, said Osama was the leader of a notorious gang that kidnapped Justice Samuel Obayomi recently in Okene.

He said the suspect and his gang had gone to attack an oil marketer and his workers at a filling station where he killed the manager and one other staff.

The CP said the police stormed the robbery scene. They were attacked by Osama and his gang, but he was shot dead by the police.

He paraded 13 other suspects involved in robbery, rape and house-breaking.

Ogunjemilusi, however,

assured the people that the police command is on red alert to keep the state crime free.

The CP stated that the Barretta pistol found on Osama belonged to the late police orderly of the judge, who was kidnapped, even as he said he had been on the wanted list of police.

The police boss said Osama was one of the those who escaped from jail last year. He also paraded Bolaji Agaje Williams who was employed as a security guard at the

cave where the high court judge was kept for over three weeks.

Williams confessed that he joined the gang recently and was detailed to watch over the kidnapped victims.

The CP also paraded some Fulani herdsmen who specialized in kidnapping their kinsmen.

The suspects are Idris Mohammed Jafaru, Shehu Haruna and Yunusa Ahmadu, who admitted to have made over N1.5 million from their crime.

3 robbery suspects ambushed

THREE suspected armed robbers have been arrested by police in Warri, Delta State.

The bandits were nabbed at Enrehen junction.

They were shot on the legs by the police before they were overpowered.

Crime Watch Today gathered that anti-crime patrol men attached to the Enerhen Division, while on patrol at Enerhen junction, heard gunshots near Shell Club. The patrol men rushed to the scene and met suspected armed robbers in operation.

The hoodlums, on

sighting the team, opened fire on the operatives and in the ensuing gun duel, three of them were shot and arrested while one escaped.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Celestina Kalu, said, "two guns, seven live cartridges, four ex-

pendent cartridges and three handsets, were recovered from the suspects"

Kalu said victims of the incident, one Erhuvwu Osirim and one other person were unhurt, and they have made statements to the police investigators.

They were picked up following a tip-off that some car snatchers were sighted at a painter's workshop, behind a petrol station off, DLA, Asaba.

The robbers were operating in a red Toyota Corolla car.

The operatives put the place under surveillance while the suspected car painter, Ifechukwude Sunday, was arrested.

The police recovered the car, marked RLU 734 CF. *Crime Watch Today* gathered that during investigation, the police arrested the principal suspects, one Chidebere Okoye, Michael Obinna and Chigozie Obeleagu. They were seized when they showed up at the said workshop.

Items recovered from them include one Toyota Camry, EKY 376 AL and a Kia Rio car, UMZ 176 AA suspected to have been stolen by the gang.

Obinna told the police that he parked another Honda pilot car in Anambra State which has also been recovered.

Meanwhile, the patrol team from Otu-Jeremi Division arrested Samson Aboy while he allegedly attempted to remove one Toyota Corolla car parked at Ekrekevei Street, Ekakpamre in Ughelli South Local Government Area.

The suspect allegedly confessed that he is a member of a five-man gang of armed robbers and that his gang snatched the said Toyota Corolla from a woman along Airport Road in Warri.

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