

court and remanded at Kaduna Central Prison. But I was later

valentine (surname withheld) was arrested in Onitsha

of SARS, Supol Ben Abang further informed *Sunday Sun*

Asaba, Delta State and Anambra State. On what awaits

charged to court after completion of investigation.

## Killers of police area commander nabbed

**THE** members of the gang that killed 52-year-old Joseph Otiogbe, a deputy superintendent of police in Aba, Abia State have been arrested.

The Abia State Commissioner of Police, Joshak Habila who disclosed this to *Sunday Sun* said the five-member gang of robbers specialized in killing policeman whether at checkpoints or the policeman was wearing mufti. They would just shoot him and take his AK 47 rifle, which they use for robbery operations.

He said that the same gang had killed over 10 policemen in the course of their murderous operations. He further disclosed that the gang resides in Aba and was part of a syndicate that also engaged in kidnapping.

Habila explained further that on March 15, 2016, the gang went to Aba to kidnap a victim, when they saw DSP Otiogbe with Force number No. 74-816, who was the officer in charge of human rights within the vicinity.

The gang shot him on the right side of his stomach and on his left leg and he died at the spot.

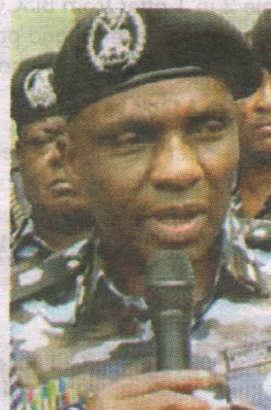


**Suspects**

Habila stated that the gang abandoned the kidnapping operation that brought them to the place and fled.

The Special Armed Robbery Squad, SARS of the Abia Command as well as the Mopol 28 and Mopol 85 launched a massive manhunt for the gang and combed Aba in search for them.

The Assistant commissioner of police, Area commander, Aba, Mr. Peter Wagbara further told *Sunday Sun* that the gang came back to Aba on April 20, 2016 to kidnap another victim. Through information made available to the police, detectives trailed them. In the exchange of gunfire, he said that three of the suspects



**Habila**

were shot and arrested while the others escaped with bullet wounds.

One of the suspects, Orji Okoro told the *Sunday Sun* that the gang always got information from a certain Hausa man in Aba and each time it carried out a successful operation, it paid him some money. He also disclosed that the man was now

at large. His words: "We have one Alhaji who was our gang member. Any victim that we kidnapped in Aba, it was the Alhaji who always kept the victim until the relatives paid the ransom before the person would be released by the Alhaji from our hideout."

"Our gang leader who is at large is from Nkporo in Abia State and he was the one that kept custody of our arms and ammunition. We are the ones that killed a policeman in mufti. We discovered that he had a pistol with him. We shot him and took his pistol.

"We have killed several policemen at checkpoints and kidnapped several victims in Aba."

Wagbara stated that a vehicle with the registration number No. HT 321 AAA as well as Otiogbe's pistol with eight rounds of ammunition were recovered by the police.

Habila added that the three suspects were still being held at the State Criminal Investigation Department, Umuahia, Abia State for further interrogation. Meanwhile the police are still on the trail of the gang leader and other members of the syndicate.