

Police smash kidnap gang in Anambra, kill 2 suspects

From **Aloysius Affah**, Onitsha

AN attempt by daredevil criminals to re-launch kidnapping in Anambra State has met a brick wall, as men of the police command shot dead two gang members and rescued their victims.

One of the suspects was paraded alongside the corpses of his accomplices yesterday at the headquarters of the Anambra State Police Command, Amawbia.

Anambra State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Sam Okaula, flanked by the Police Public Relations Officer, Nkiruka Nwode, and other senior officers of the command, disclosed that the suspected kidnappers had raided a popular club in Awka, where they kidnapped the manager and demanded a ransom of N50 million.

Okaula said the Special Anti-Robbery Squad swooped on the criminals in one of the forests in Urum community, Awka North Local Government Area. During the operation, the gang leader was shot dead and victim rescued unhurt. He said one of the suspects, who was responsible for collecting the ransom, was also arrested with a locally-made pistol.

"These boys stormed the popular Lounge 24 Night Club and kidnapped the manager, Chidi Ojukwu, aka Odaa Opuo.

"This is the second attempt by these men of the underworld to infiltrate the very fortified security network initiated by Governor Obiano. The first being that of Ifeanyichukwu Motors, were unsuccessful, leading to the death of the suspects," he said.