

# Bandits attack station, kill policeman in Akwa Ibom

From **Joe Effiong**, Uyo

**1** **AFTER** about a two-week ceasefire, hoodlums suspected to be members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) or Indigenous People of Biafra (IBOP) have, once again, carried out an attack on a police station in Ini local government area of Akwa Ibom State.

The incident, which occurred in the early hours of yesterday, is said to have resulted in the death of one anti-riot policeman who was shot by the hoodlums in the ensuing gun battle with the police.

Daily Sun, however, gathered that unlike a previous attack at Ini divisional police headquarters, in which five policemen and a woman were killed and the hoodlums went away unmolested, they were not all that lucky during yesterday's attack as one of the hoodlums, identified as Imo John Udo, was arrested while several others escaped with bullets wounds.

The source said that the armed men stormed the

area with motorcycles and immediately opened fire directly on the police officers who returned fire, but one of them fell to the bandits bullets.

The source added that many of the hoodlums

abandoned their motorcycles and charms and fled the scene.

"This morning, we got information that a police station was being attacked in Ini, so we went. The men came here on motor-

cycles and started shooting at the police and they (police) also started shooting, but one of the police was gunned down. The bandit escaped into the bush leaving behind their motorcycles and charms

"the source said.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Odiko Macdon, confirmed the incident and said the Commissioner of Police, Andrew Amienheme, has ordered men of the Operation Restore Peace to comb the bushes for possible arrest of fleeing members of the gang.

## IGP decongests cell, releases suspects in Lagos

By **Christopher Oji**

**THE** Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Intelligence Response Unit (IRT), Southwest zone, Lagos, has decongested its cell and set to release some of the 70 suspects in detention.

IRT, led by DCP Abba Kyari, last Thursday, invited three notable magistrates to look into the case files of suspects and recommend what to be done on their matters since the judicial workers have been on strike.

IRT Legal Officer, ASP Nosa Uhumwangho, said that the decongestion was prompted at the instance of the unit due to the prolonged strike by the Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN).

JUSUN, on April 6, direct-

ed its members to shut down all courts across the country, demanding the implementation of law granting financial autonomy to the Judiciary.

The strike has, however, been suspended as JUSUN directed that courts resume sitting today.

ASP Uhumwangho said three magistrates took part in the process which was intended to decongest the cell and make recommendations for detainees who had overstayed in the cell.

Reacting to leniency on the part of the magistrates, Uhumwangho said the magistrates were only doing their job as a lacuna had being created by the law which is what they operate on.

"It is true that some cases cannot be concluded in 48

hours, so it is necessary and mandatory to seek order for continuous remand.

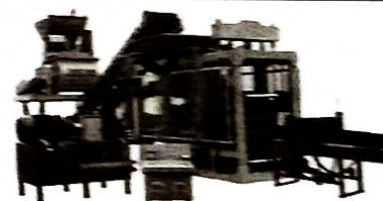
"Although courts are on strike now, we are just hearing the good news that the court will resume on Monday; so, by next week, we will arraign those recommended by the magistrates and release those who they ordered that we should release, so our cells will be decongested."

ASP Uhumwangho further commended the effort of the magistrates, saying that investigation police officers were being reminded that suspects should not be kept longer than necessary in police custody.



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