

# Rivers police bust criminal hideout, kill notorious cultist, robber

From Tony John, Port Harcourt

**MEN** of the Rivers State Police Command have busted a criminal hideout in a Rivers community and killed a suspected

cultist and an armed robber during a crossfire.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the command, Grace Iringe-Koko, a Superintendent of Police (SP), in a statement in Port Harcourt, noted that

the suspect, Silas Oderereke, has been on the wanted list of police for about four years.

Iringe-Koko disclosed that the police operatives invaded the den of the criminals in the Oderereke com-

munity in Ahoada-West Local Government Area of the state, and that on sighting the police operatives, the criminals opened fire, adding that the 'General' was brought down in the gun battle.

The PPRO said two other suspected criminals sustained injuries, while two of them escaped and are now at large.

She said: "In a major breakthrough, the Rivers State Police Command successfully apprehended a notorious armed robber and cult leader, Silas Oderereke, in Oderereke, Ahoada-West Local Government Area. Oderereke, also known as 'General,' had been on the run for the past four years, evading arrest.

## ng, kidnapping displaced Imo as home of peace -CBCN President

The cleric made the lamentation while delivering his homily, yesterday, at a thanksgiving Mass, held at Maria Assumpta Cathedral, Owerri, in honour of the 2024 Armed Forces Remembrance Day and Governor Hope Uzodinma's re-election.

He said: "Imo State used to be a haven of peace and a home of the hospitality industry that attracted people from far

and near. Unfortunately, recent years have bequeathed us the horrifying memories of bloody conflicts, mindless blood spilling and countless numbers of kidnapping in the state."

Although he noted that no bloody attack or kidnapping incidents were recorded during the Christmas season, he said nobody knows what the new year would bring.

"Although there are no reports of bloody attacks or

kidnapping during the last Christmas season, the dawn of a new year prompts the question whether the new year would be one of peace and renewed sense of brotherhood in our communities and state. It is difficult to foresee what this new year has in store for us. I, therefore, appeal to all behind the terror in the state, to give peace a chance."

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