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# Gunmen's attempt to kidnap Obi of Onitsha flops

From NWABUEZE OKONKWO, Onitsha

Saturday, October 3, 2009

The Anambra Police Command on Thursday night foiled an attempt by some gun men, suspected to be kidnappers, to abduct the Anambra State chairman of traditional rulers and the Obi of Onitsha, Igwe Alfred Nnaemeka Achebe.

The suspected kidnappers, who numbered about 10 and operated with a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) and a Mercedes salon car, according to eye witnesses, were dislodged by the men of Special Anti Robbery Squad, (SARS) attached to the Onitsha Area command when they struck between 8 and 9pm at Igwe Achebe's residence in GRA area of Onitsha.

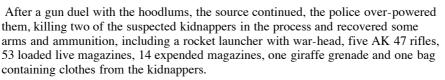




Photo: Sun News Publishing

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"Unfortunately, in the shootout between the police and the kidnappers, a woman was killed by stray bullets. She has been deposited at the Onitsha General Hospital mortuary, while four other casualties, who were hit by bullets are receiving treatment at the same hospital," the eye witness disclosed.

When contacted, the Onitsha Police Area Commander, Mr. John Nwele, confirmed the incident to newsmen, adding that the Police also recovered the vehicles used by the kidnappers.

Also the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the State, Mr. Emeka Chukwuemeka (ASP), confirmed the incident, adding that the abductors started their operation at Neni, in Anaocha council area of the state and moved down to Onitsha, where they operated between 7.00 p.m and 10.00 p.m.

Chukwuemeka said that there was "actually an attempt by some hoodlums to abduct the traditional monarch of Onitsha kingdom on Thursday evening, but was foiled by policemen within Onitsha and its environs".

The PPRO, however, said that the police arrested one of the hoodlums, who had serious bullet wounds, after an extensive gun duel.

"The police also recovered five AK47 rifle with 1,660 AK47 rifle live ammunition; one general purpose machine gun; two rocket launchers and some grenades from the hoodlums," Chukwuemeka stated.

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