

Two robbers burnt alive, five arrested



The injured suspects

Clement James
CALABAR

Two suspected armed robbers were roasted alive yesterday at Ephraim by White House in Calabar, Cross River State when they raided the area.

The two men were among the 20 robbers who invaded the area in broad day light on Thursday.

Five others were arrested by the police after a shoot-out.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Irene Ugbo, who disclosed this, explained that a gang of 20 armed robbers invaded the area yesterday afternoon.

She said: "About 1:30p.m., we received distress calls that a group of armed robbers were at Ephraim by White House terrorising that area. Before our men got there, concerned residents in the area, who called our men, had already burnt two of the suspected armed robbers.

"Our men from the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) swung into action but the robbers engaged the SARS team in a gun duel. From what we learnt, they were about 20 of them. Our men were able to arrest five of them while others fled with various degrees of bullet wounds.

"You can see the bullet wounds on their bodies; we will provide first aid for them to get relief. This will help us get more information that would lead to the arrest of those at large."

Ugbo said the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hafiz Inuwa, had zero tolerance for crime in the state.

She added that any criminal caught in the act of crime would not be spared.

About five cartridges and four locally-made pistols were recovered from the suspects.

The PPRO thanked members of the public for their timely and useful information that led to the arrest of members

of the robbery gang.

She said such information would encourage them to deal with such situations promptly.

Health workers march on Ambode's office

Muritala Ayinla

Hundreds of members of health workers' union yesterday stormed the Lagos State Governor's Office at Alausa to protest corruption.

They were also protesting what they described as continued discrimination among the medical professionals and dichotomy in medical laboratory services across the country.

For hours, the protesters, under the aegis of the Nigerian Union of Allied Health Professionals, took over the major parts of the road to express their grievances over the developments in the health sector which, they said, could threaten already existing mutual relationship between the Lagos State government and the health workers and consequently deny residents in the state of quality health service.

They stormed the Lagos State Ministry of Health located in the Lagos State Secretariat, Alausa, before heading to Governor Akinwunmi Ambode's Office, threatening to embark on an indefinite strike, if their demands were not addressed.

The aggrieved union, led by its National President, Comrade Ogbonna Chimela, demanded implementation of consultancy status to qualified healthcare professionals, especially for the pharmacists and others who have reached advanced stage, approval and payment of enhanced call duty and non-clinical duty allowance.