



One of the houses. Inset: Ezenwa

Juliana Francis

Operatives of the Inspector-General of Police Special Intelligence Response Team (IRT), yesterday said it recovered 13 buildings, 13 vehicles and N100 million belonging to a policeman turned kidnapper.

The suspect, Corporal Collins Ezenwa aka E-Money is now late.

IRT recovers N100m, 13 buildings from policeman turned kidnapper

Ezenwa was also said to be involved in robbery and part of gang which had been terrorising South-East and South-South.

The police revelation came to the fore, just as Amnesty International (AI), Nigeria, accused IRT of human rights' violations in handling the Ezenwa's case.

IRT operatives, Lagos State branch, led by CSP Philip Rieniwa, were said to have taken over the case from Imo State Command, after Ezenwa was killed.

Amnesty International alleged that IRT operatives had taken over some of the multi-billion naira property of the deceased and were also collecting rent on some of his choice houses and paying into two bank accounts. AI insisted that police took over the property without due process and court order.

According to police sources, IRT was on Ezenwa's trail before he was gunned down by policemen attached to the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Imo State Police Command in 2018, after they accosted him during a robbery operation in Owerri, Imo State. Arrested along with him were some bankers and a real estate agent, allegedly working for him.

"The IRT uncovered during its investigations that E-Money, who was a dismissed police corporal working at the Imo State Police Command, also had links to robbery gang, hijacking oil vessels on the high sea and selling products to waiting buyers. E-Money, who joined the police in 2009, made billions of naira from his nefarious criminal activities. He bought several choice properties including hotels and exotic cars in Imo, Abia and Enugu states, within two years," a source said.

One of his friends, Onyekere, advised him to quit his police job and travel out of the country as people might start suspecting that he could have made his money through crime. E-Money quit his police job, travelled out of the country for weeks. He returned and bought a hotel in Enugu. He also made a deposit of N100 million in a fixed deposit account which his wife was also a signatory to.

Police were said to have started investigating E-Money in 2017, after Emmanuel and David Ofong were kidnapped on Nsukka-Kogi Road, Enugu, by a gang of kidnappers and a ransom of \$2 million was demanded.

David was released, while the kidnappers held

onto Emmanuel, asking for additional money.

"IRT operatives had a tough time tracking and arresting him because he was always on the move, jetting out of the country," said a police source.

IRT were still hunting for him, when news came that he had been killed. "He was killed along with two of his members. But since Chief Emmanuel Ofong, who he kidnapped was still missing, IRT continued with investigations. IRT in the process arrested a banker working for him. The banker told IRT that Ezenwa's wife had a fixed deposit account credited with N100 million. IRT also arrested a property agent who assisted him in buying his properties," the source added.

The police said the recovered 13 choice cars belonged to Ezenwa.

Relatives and wife of Ezenwa petitioned the National Human Rights Commission and the Amnesty International, insisting that IRT had confiscated some of Ezenwa's property and money.

But police lawyer, Nosa Uhumwangho, said the IRT operatives did not violate human rights in handling Ezenwa's case. He emphasised that due process was followed.

Two die as cult members clash in Ondo

Man abducts, sodomises boy, 17

in his house for a week and had sex with