

Police uncover gang targeting, killing Uber drivers, stealing vehicles in Rivers

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The Rivers State Police Command has arrested some members of a criminal gang suspected to be involved in hijacking and murdering car-hire drivers and stealing their vehicles.

The Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), SP Grace Iringe-Koko, yesterday linked the group to multiple cases of drivers that went missing.

She revealed that the arrest of one of the gang member, Anthony Chima, exposed the sinister activities of the gang in the state.

She stated: "The discovery of this criminal enterprise targeting Uber drivers in the state followed the disappearance of one Oghenevwarhe Barry Akpobome, an Uber driver.

"Upon investigating the disappearance, Police operatives arrested one Anthony Chima, a 35-year-old graduate of Political Science from the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt.

"Under interrogation, Chima confessed to being recruited into a gang that specialise in luring taxi drivers into ambushes and stealing their vehicles," she stated.

Iringe-Koko said that Chima's testimony showed the gang's further gruesome actions of killing the drivers and harvesting their body parts for ritualistic purposes.

Oil tanker explosion in P'Harcourt

10 a.m. yesterday as the driver of the tanker was driving through one of the link roads on the flyover.

According to an eyewitness, the tanker fell and exploded, killing the driver of the saloon car and the passenger, who the source said struggled to get out of the car but couldn't.

Another source said that immediately the accident occurred, there was a mad rush by other motorists to leave the scene, causing a "scramble among

drivers who were reversing and running through one way to avoid the area."

He added that even though people knew that there were occupants in the car that was burning there was nothing anybody could do except to flee the scene. The spokesperson of the State Police Command, Grace Iringe-Koko, who confirmed the incident and the casualty figure, said that the fire had been put out by men of the fire service.