

Police Kill 12 Suspected Robbers

Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia yesterday witnessed a heavy human traffic as residents trooped in their hundreds to catch a glimpse of a gory spectacle of 12 bodies of young men stacked beside the mortuary located at the western wing of the hospital.

The young men including a 13-year-old boy were suspected armed robbers arrested by the police the previous day at their hideout in Ohokobe Ndume community, Umuahia North Local Government area.

By 8am when the news of the slaughtered robbers went round the capital city hundreds of people abandoned their various engagements and rushed to the FMC to behold the lifeless bodies of criminal elements, who had been terrorising the capital city and its environs.

Residents of Umuahia, who used to see the dead robbers, were heard dis-

From Emmanuel Ugwu

in Umuahia

cussing the fate of the criminals, saying they deserved to end their lives tragically considering the havoc they had caused to people.

The suspected robbers with various degrees of gunshot wounds were paraded before newsmen on Thursday morning at the state police command headquarters only for their bodies to be found stacked at the FMC grounds the following day.

Our correspondent gathered that three of the dead robbers were of same parents though their late father had separated from their mother only for the three boys to rebel against their mother and took to criminal life.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Jacob Oshiomogho told newsmen that the robbers were nabbed

at their hideout in Ohokobe, following a tip off by informants, adding that four of the hoodlums were gunned down during an exchange of gunfire with the police.

He praised the public for its cooperation in making the operation a success, saying that a team of police detectives had swooped on the robbers at about 5.30am on Thursday and got them in a small house they had hurriedly completed to serve as their hiding place.

The DCP said that the gang was part of the hoodlums that put residents of Aba on edge but apparently relocated to Umuahia following the pressure generated by the combined of the army and the police in Enyimba city.

He noted that the police recovered a number of arms and ammunitions as well as various properties suspected to have been stolen from their victims.