

# Police Raid Kidnappers Hideout, Kill 3 in Anambra

25 Oct 2012

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**Anambra State Governor, Mr. Peter Obi.**

The Anambra State Police Command yesterday raided the hideout of a major kidnapping syndicate in Ihiala, rescuing a hostage, killing three kidnappers in a shootout and arresting three others.

Disclosing this to journalists, the state Commissioner of Police, Bala Nasarawa, said his men raided the kidnappers' hideout in Ihiala, where his men killed three of the kidnappers in return.

He also stated that his men seized three others from the building, freeing their hostage, a man named Jonathan Onyekwulu.

"They have been responsible for most kidnappings in the state and environs," he said, adding that the gang's leader was arrested a few months ago, which had helped the police to track them down.

"Our operatives are working assiduously to track down fleeing wounded members of the syndicate," after the shootout, Nasarawa said, giving no details of how many had fled.

"We also recovered a rocket launcher, four rockets, 18 AK-47 assault rifle magazines and several rifles," he added.

The state governor, Mr. Peter Obi, had launched a crackdown on kidnapping gangs last month, giving national police authority to seal off or destroy the property of suspected gang members.

Foreigners are sometimes targets of abductions, especially oil workers, although this has sharply decreased since a 2009 amnesty with militants in the oil-producing Niger Delta.

Pirates off the coast of Nigeria seized six Russians and an Estonian during an attack on their ship on October 17.

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