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### Five Arrested, Four Killed as Police Smash Kidnap Syndicate

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with Femi Ogbonnikan

Police in Ogun State have smashed a kidnap syndicate which has been terrorising residents of Ijebu Ode axis in recent times. During the onslaught launched against the syndicate on Monday, five suspected kidnappers were apprehended, while four others died during a fierce exchange of gun fire with Special Anti-robbery Squad (SARS) detectives attached to Ogun State Police Command, Magbon, Abeokuta.

SATURDAY THISDAY gathered that the SARS operatives swooped on the den of the kidnappers at Odelewu Area of Ijebu Ode where five of the suspects, with fatal bullet wounds were arrested and four others fell during fierce gun duel.

It was learnt that the kidnappers were at the verge of launching a fresh mission to kidnap the son of a business mogul in Ijebu Ode before the detectives swiftly moved in, following a tip-off.

It would be recalled that the kidnappers, made up of three different syndicates within Ijebu Ode axis, had kidnapped no fewer than seven persons in Omu, Epe Garage (Ijebu Ode), Ikangba, Ibadan Garage (Ijebu Ode), Imodi Mosan, Idowa and other communities, including the mother of a prominent lawmaker from Ijebu Ode, recently. Ransoms running into several millions of naira had been paid to the hostage-takers by the relations of the victims.

Mr. Olumuyiwa Adejobi, Ogun State Police Command Public Relations Officer, confirmed the report and named the arrested five suspects as Adeyinka Olusoji, Akinyele Jaiyesimi, Gbadamosi Dada, Taiwo Ayoola and Suleiman Kalejaiye.

Items recovered from the suspects include two double barrel guns, some live and expended cartridges, four fake police Identity Cards, assorted charms and two cars, an Astra Saloon Car, marked BB 352 BDR and a Renault Saloon Car, with registration number AG 596 GBE.

According to Adejobi, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Mr. Ikemefuna Okoye, Ogun State Commissioner of Police commended the SARS detectives who took part in the operation and had equally directed that a thorough probe be carried out into matters connected with the suspects and others.

The police image-maker added that the CP seized the occasion to express his gratitude to the good people of Ogun State for their support, particularly in the area of giving useful information to the police and robust intelligence, culminating in the arrest of the five suspects.

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