

Police kill four suspected robbers in shoot-out

Vincent Ujumadu

UMUAHIA—FOUR armed robbery suspects were yesterday in Umuahia shot dead by the police and 12 others who sustained injuries were arrested during gun battle at Ohokobe Ndume, a remote area in the Abia State capital.

Several others reportedly escaped when they could no longer withstand the police fire power.

Among those arrested were two teenagers, while six of the suspects were from the same village in Umuahia. Police public relations officer (PPRO) for the Abia State command, Mr. Uchay Chuk-

wuji who briefed newsmen at the police headquarters where the suspects were paraded said that the police got information that some of the criminals who were dislodged in Aba have moved to Umuahia.

According to him, the suspects were hibernating at an uncompleted house in Ohokobe which they hurriedly completed. He said that following a tip off, detectives from the Criminal Investigation Bureau struck at the building at the early hours of Thursday. He said that on sighting the police, the suspects opened fire on them and the police replied, adding that it was during the operation that four of the suspects were killed.

Those who sustained injuries have been taken to hospital for treatment. Chukwuji said that among items recov-

red from them were four locally made short barreled guns, two locally made single guns, an English made pistol, one dagger, one knife, four handsets, four wrist watches, one cutlass with blood stains one saw blade, one jack knife, one international passport belonging to one Njoku Ugochukwu Marshal, one VCD and a television set.

He also said that during an operation carried out at Item in Bende local government area, several guns and ammunitions were recovered from the hideout of suspected robbers, adding that on sighting the police, all of them took to their heels.

He said that many of the robbers have moved from Aba to other parts of the state and members of the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious movements in their areas to the police.

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