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Police rescue abducted bank manager *Suspected kidnapper killed, 2 arrested

Written by VANGUARD
Sunday, 19 April 2009

THE South East regional manager of a new generation bank (name withheld) who was kidnapped Thursday, March 9, from his residence in Enugu has been rescued.

A team of police officers from Enugu State Police Command stormed the hideout of the kidnap gang at Ngada Umuelem village, Isuochi community in Umueochi Local Government Area of Abia State at about 3.30 a.m. Friday and rescued the bank manager after seven days in captivity.

The victim was kidnapped at gunpoint by a gang of kidnappers who trailed him to his residence in Independence Layout at about 7.30 p.m. and took him away in his official PRADO sports utility vehicle, SUV, to their hideout in Abia State from where they (kidnappers) called his relations and demanded a ransom of N50 million.

Sunday Vanguard learnt that an undisclosed amount of money was paid as ransom but the gang felt it was not enough and refused to release the bank manager as they continued to make further demands.

But luck ran out on the gang when an informant revealed the identities of the kidnappers prompting the state police command to raise a crack team, which stormed the community in the early hours of Friday and succeeded in rescuing the victim. Three persons including a lady were arrested from the scene but one of them was reportedly shot dead later while trying to escape from police custody.

Prior to the raid on their hideout, police sources said, the victim had attempted to escape from the kidnappers as he ran out of the detention camp and hid in a woman's house but his captors ransacked the house and fished him out. He was labeled an "armed robber" and thoroughly beaten up by the kidnappers for attempting to escape before he was returned to the detention camp, where he remained amid threat of being killed if the N50 million was not paid before the rescue team rescued him on Friday.

The State Police public relations officer, Mr. Ebere Amarizu, who confirmed the rescue of the bank manager and the arrest of the suspects, said investigations were on to fish out the kingpin and other members of the gang said to be on the run.



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