

Vanguard

Boko Haram invades DSS office, kidnappers attack police

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***7 killed, 7 arrested**

***Suspects linked to the abduction of Pastor Oyakhilome's priest**

By Vincent Ujumadu, *Awka* and Boluwaji Obahopo, *Lokoja*

It was a bloody weekend in Anambra and Kogi States after deadly encounters between gunmen and security forces left a policeman and six others dead.



(<http://www.vanguardngr.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/DSS.jpg>)

The Anambra duel claimed the lives of three suspected kidnappers while three gunmen, suspected to be members of the Boko Haram terror group, were killed in Kogi.

Both incidents happened on Friday night.

Seven suspects arrested in connection with the Anambra shootout were paraded by the police, yesterday. The incident occurred at Obosi in Idemili South Local Government Area where the police and kidnappers exchanged gunfire.

While parading the arrested suspects, yesterday, Anambra State Police Command Public

Relations Officer, Mr. Ali Okechukwu, said an L-300 Mitsubishi bus, one rifle, 15 rounds of ammunition, 85 rounds of live cartridges and 750 AK-47 ammunition were recovered.

Okechukwu said the suspects were linked to the kidnapping of an expatriate, who worked for Pastor Chris Oyakhilome of the Christ Embassy Church in Kano, and came to Anambra State to pick their ransom.

The police, the PRO said, had trailed the gang for a long time, adding that, when the suspects noticed that

the police were on their trail, they fired from their L-300 bus at Obosi and the police had to return fire.

He identified one of the dead suspects as Okechukwu Ilu while the identities of the two others were unknown.

The Kogi incident, which allegedly claimed the lives of a Mobile Policeman and three attackers, was said to have been launched around 10 pm, on Friday, when the gunmen, believed to be members of Boko Haram, stormed the headquarters of the Department of State Services (DSS) in Lokoja, the state capital. Seven persons were injured.

On arrival, the heavily armed invaders attacked security agents around with IEDs and AK47 rifles, among other dangerous weapons, in order to gain access into the headquarters.

A DSS top official immediately put a distress call to nearby police and army units which deployed truck loads of officers and men and arrived about 40 minutes later but could not gain access to the area as the attackers had deflated the tyres of a truck used in blocking the road at the Zone 8 Junction leading to the DSS office.

Sunday Vanguard learnt that the police and army teams engaged the attackers for three hours before the suspected Boko Haram insurgents were subdued after which some of the suspects fled into the bush while three lay dead. A police officer was also killed.

Kogi State Police Public Relations Officer, Williams Aya, who confirmed the incident, said, “It was criminal elements that invaded the DSS office around 9:45 pm on Friday, but prompt response of the police led to the death of three of the attackers but, at the end, the command lost a policeman.”

Aya said the command was investigating the attack, noting that he could not confirm whether the attackers gained access to the DSS office. “We are still investigating and cannot say much until we are able to lay our hands on the suspects. We are working with other security agents in the state to ensure that we get to the root cause of the attack”, he said.