

Police kill 2 robbery suspects, nab 20 criminals in Rivers

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PORT HARCOURT—Two suspected kidnappers have been shot dead by men of the Rivers State Police command.

This came at a time the police in the state also arrested the kidnappers of the University of Port Harcourt's Vice Chancellor's son, and other seven kidnap suspects in the state.

The state Police Commissioner, Mr Musa Kimo, who briefed the media on the operations of his command in the last two weeks, said about 20 suspects were arrested for offences ranging from kidnapping, armed robbery operations to cultism.

Some of the items recovered from the hoodlums included one General Purpose Machine Gun, GPMG, five AK 47 rifles 3 locally made pistols, 5 locally made long guns and so on.

He said some of the cultists also indulged in robbery operations, adding that one of the kidnappers arrested was allegedly part of a gang that buried their hostage, Friday Ozoko, in a shallow grave at Choba in Ikwerre Local Government Area.

Kimo also dismissed as untrue allegations of an upsurge of crime by some persons, stressing that such claims were the handiwork of detractors and alarmists.

“Let me use this opportunity to debunk the media hype by some elements that there is crime upsurge in the state.

“To say the least, it's the handwork of false alarmists who are not happy with existing peace and tranquility in the state.

“No amount of smear campaign can deter us from doing the needful to attain a near crime free Rivers State,” he said.

The Police chief further appealed for support of the civil populace for information to assist the Police rid the state of hoodlums and unwanted elements,

“While soliciting the continued understanding and support of the members of the public, I enjoin them not to panic and go about their lawful activities as the Police will always be there to ensure a sustained public safety and security,” he said.

Meanwhile, the command has arrested the kidnappers of the University of Port Harcourt's Vice Chancellor's son, and other seven kidnap suspects in the state.

The Police Commissioner, Musa Kimo made this disclosure, yesterday, at the command headquarters, Moscow road,

while parading over 30 suspects of different crimes in the state.

It will be recalled that the son of the VC of UNIPORT, Mr. Ejire Lale, was last month abducted from his father's compound in Eleme council area unknown gunmen at his fish farm.

But Monday, the Rivers Police paraded four suspects in connection with the abduction of Lale and other kidnap cases in the state.

Kimo said the four-man kidnapping gang was nabbed by the Police following an intensified investigation and combing of criminal hideouts in Eleme LGA.

The CP also said it has rescued seven kidnap victims within two weeks of intensified fight against criminality and armed robbery in the state.

The police boss also debunked reports that there was crime upsurge in Rivers State, saying "It is the handiwork of false alarmists who are not happy with the existing peace and tranquility in the state."