

Police kill 3 robbers, arrest 3 others in Benue

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MAKURDI—Three robbery and kidnap suspects, said to be members of the wanted militant leader, Terwase Agwaza, alias *Gana*'s syndicate, have been killed in a gun battle with police in Benue State, and three others arrested.

Briefing reporters on the development, Benue Police Commissioner, Mr. Bashir Makama, represented by the command's Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent, Moses Yamu, disclosed that the same gang had, few weeks ago, attempted to kidnap Prince Akase Torkula, son of the late Tor Tiv.

He said: "Our team of *Operation Zenda Special Crack Squad*, acted on a tip-off that a gang of robbers and kidnappers, who attempted to kidnap one Prince Kaase Torkula, the late Tor Tiv's son, were hiding at Tyogbeda Anshan in Usongo Local Government Area.

"The team went to the scene and on sighting the crack squad, the hoodlums opened fire. During the ensuing gun battle with the robbers, one Paul, alias *Nautical*; one Iorcivir Tarhemba, alias *Orsoja* and Terseer Isho, alias *Abana*, were hit by bullets and arrested, while others escaped with bullet wounds.

"The arrested robbers were later confirmed to be members of the wanted robber and kidnapper, Terwase Agwaze's gang."

He said items recovered from the gang included one English-made Jerico pistol with four rounds of live ammunition, one locally-made Barretta pistol with five rounds of 9mm live ammunition and one English-made pump action double-barrelled gun with three live cartridges.