

Police kill *Devil*, notorious kidnapper, in Rivers

By Davies Iheamnachor

1 **PORT HARCOURT**—A notorious kidnapper identified as Linus Lebari, popularly called 'Devil,' has been killed by operatives of the Rivers State Police Command.

The suspect, who hails from Khana Local Government Area of the state, was killed yesterday during a shootout with operatives of the Bori Police Station.

In a statement, yesterday, in Port Harcourt, Police Public Relations Officer of the Command, Nnamdi Omoni, disclosed that *Devil*, the suspect, and his gang had opened fire on sighting policemen.

Omoni said: "Men of the Bori Police Station led by the DPO, last night at about 8:16p.m., in a coordinated operation trailed one Linus Lebari, aged 35, also known as 'DEVIL' from Tekon Sogho in Khana council of Rivers State to their hideout in a forest at Okwale, boundary between Rivers and Abia states.

"The hoodlums, on noticing irregular movements around their camp, started shooting randomly but in a return fire from the Police, one of them was fatally wounded and later identified to be Linus Lebari from Tekon Sogho, the leader of the kidnapping gang responsible for all the attacks on the Ogoni axis of the East-West

Road.

"His gang has killed over 30 people in Khana and Gokana councils, after collecting ransom.

"In the wake of the operation, two officers sustained gunshot wounds and are currently responding to treatment while one locally-made pistol and some cartridges were recovered.

"Efforts are on to arrest other gang members, who fled with gunshot wounds.

"The Commissioner of Police, Mustapha Dandaura, is again assuring the public that the onslaught against armed banditry in the state is raging and will not cease until all criminal elements in the state are history."

Fire guts Sango market