



By Evelyn Usman

Police bust kidnap syndicate operating in S-West

●Police woman, NSCDC officer, others among victims
 ●Kills bizman after N4m ransom

OPERATIVES of Zone 2 Command of Nigeria Police Force, Onikan, Lagos have busted a kidnap/ robbery syndicate responsible for several abductions of unsuspecting persons in the South West zone of the country.

Consequently, six members of the gang have been arrested and sophisticated weapons and ammunition, including AK-47 rifles, AK-49 rifles, American Pump Action rifle, among others recovered.

The suspects, who were paraded by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Zone 2 Command, AIG Mohammed Ilyasu, confessed to have their hideouts in forests spread across Ogun, Oyo, Ekiti, Osun, Kwara and Lagos states, where victims are kept until ransom was paid.

A woman Police Inspector, a Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, and prominent businessmen were among those kidnapped so far.

Unfortunately, one of the victims, Alhaji Oro, was shot dead by the gang after collecting N4 million ransom from his relatives, with his remains buried in a forest.

The suspects also confessed to have shot at will during operations at victims who tried to play smart.

Briefing journalists on the arrest, Ilyasu said: "In line with the Inspector-General of Police directives to mop up arms from criminal elements and gangs across the country, with focus on community policing and strategy, through intelligence-led investigation, some criminal gangs were arrested across Zone 2, comprising Ogun and Lagos states.

"These consist of three different deadly kidnap syndicates, which members have serial records of kidnappings and killings in the South-West zone.

"These youngsters recently kidnapped a serving woman police inspector and an operative of NSCDC in Ogun State and collected ransom before setting them free.

"Upon receiving information on these marauders, I directed my Monitoring Tactical Unit to ensure they track down the perpetrators. Six of them, who operated in three different groups, were nabbed.

"It was later discovered that these criminals mounted a road block on Ayetoro-Abeokuta Road in Yewa area of Ogun State, which the woman Inspector ran into on May 4, 2020 at about 5:25pm. While they were manhandling her driver of an oncoming car behind attempted to escape their onslaught but had to pay with his life, as these heartless animals in human skin, targeted and opened fire on him. Sadly, their bullets hit him, killing him on the spot.

"Thereafter, a female occupant of the vehicle was kidnapped with the woman Inspector and taken into the forest for three days before releasing them, after payment of ransom by their relatives.

"In the case of the NSCDC official identified as Are, he kept some cattle in the custody of one of these boys to graze. It was this employee of his that gave him out to the gang. He was kidnapped on his way to the farm at Egguwa in the Yewa North Local Government Area of Ogun State. He was held in captivity for three days in the forest before he regained freedom upon payment of N3 million ransom.

"Similarly, one Alhaji Oro, a big time cattle rearer, who had his farm in Egguwa, was kidnapped on his way to the farm and held hostage

for four days. Despite payment of the demanded N4m ransom, they shot and killed him.

"These groups traced another target, identified as Umaru at Awaaye in Oyo State, trekked from Ogun State and were on the road for two weeks. They ambushed him on his way to the farm and successfully seized him. He was in captivity for two days before he was released after payment of N1 million ransom.

"They also targeted one Alhaji Adegoke near Iseyin in Oyo State, during which they made a demand of N25 million ransom from his relatives. But while that was on, one of them with an AK-47 rifle was on guard while others went out for another operation.

"It was at this point that fate played in the victim's favour, as the man on guard slept off and Alhaji Adegoke escaped. He cleverly hid himself in the forest. On realising he had escaped, the raging kidnappers, in their large number, scattered into the forest, shooting sporadically with the intention to have him killed. But, today, the man is hale and hearty while six of the evil perpetrators are here with us to pay for their longtime evil deeds."

Identities of the suspects, who all confessed to be Fulani but born in Kwara and Ogun states are Adamu Salisu, 25; Ibrahim Mohammed, 33; Abubakar Sadiq, 24; Tamba Mohammed, 25; Adamu Suleiman and Akanni Musa, 38.

However, only four of them were paraded before newsmen.

Confession

Narrating how the gang operates, 25-year-old Adamu Salisu, said: "I am a Fulani man, born in Ogun State. I sell cows. I was introduced to kidnapping by a friend. We are many that are into this and there are different groups. Each group operates on its own. We come out of the forest, block the road and kidnap victims. We would carry them on

motor bikes into the forest where they would remain until ransom is paid for their release.

"We don't know the profession of some of our victims before they are kidnapped. For others, it is based on information. The forest is so big that it can take as many victims as we wish.

"In Ogun State, we made use of forests in Sagamu, Ogiro, Sagbada, Ibeja and Odumaki. In Lagos, forest in Epe is where we keep our victims.

"We give victims garri and palm oil or garri with water, depending on what they want. At times, my members would serve them with raw cassava. I have never slept with any of the female victims but some of my colleagues did.

"We collected N1 million ransom for the release of the policewoman, out of which I got N100,000. For the Civil Defence man, we collected N3 million ransom from his relatives, out of which I got N200,000. One of us, Mohammed, gave us information on his



The suspects.



Recovered weapons.

movement. He (informant) got N400,000 out of the N3 million ransom. We also collected N4 million ransom from one Alhaji Oro who was later shot dead."

Why we killed Oro

When asked why Alhaji Oro was killed, Salisu said: "He stood as surety for two of our members who were earlier arrested for stealing cows. But they fled when they were expected to report at the police station. Alhaji Oro was arrested and asked to produce them and he did. While I was in prison over cow theft,

with some of those Alhaji earlier stood surety for, they were angry at him for showing the Police where they were. They resolved to kidnap and collect ransom from his relatives in order to avenge what he did.

"But when he was kidnapped, one of them shot him dead because he recognised him. His corpse was dumped in the bush."

AIG Ilyasu disclosed that efforts were on to arrest other members of the syndicate, adding that he had placed his men on strategic locations in Lagos and Ogun states where kidnappers operate.

Police arrest man for allegedly swindling US-based Nigerian woman

●Recover victim's landed property, vehicles from suspect
 ●She is my girlfriend, suspect claims

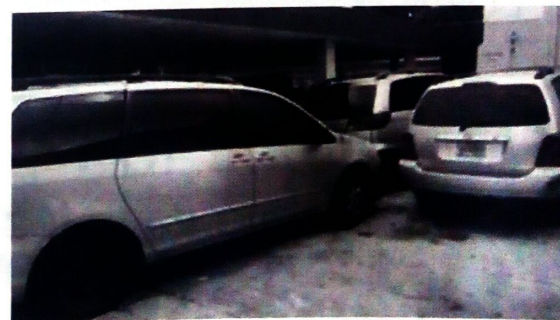
By Evelyn Usman

A 43-year-old Sylvester Ehiarinmian is currently cooling his heels in the custody of the Zone 2 Police command, Onikan, for allegedly swindling a United States-based Nigerian woman of millions of naira and landed property in some parts of Nigeria.

The victim, a married woman with children, who owns a farm in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Abuja, reportedly had the intention of setting up other businesses back home.

She was said to have been introduced to Ehiarinmian as capable of providing her with security to and from the farm. However, the suspect was said to have made a love advance to her, with a promise to marry her, even though she claimed he was aware she was married.

Trouble started after she sensed that her money and property were being appropriated, consequent upon which she alerted the



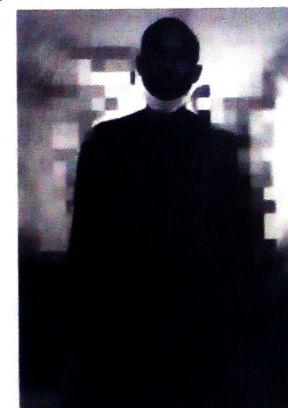
Recovered vehicles.

Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Zone 2, AIG Ahmed Ilyasu.

Confirming the arrest, Ilyasu said: Two Toyota Sienna Space bus of 2005 and 2007 models with number plates RBC 564 BB and YAB 101 AZ; one Toyota Highlander 2001 model with number plate, YAB 768 SD; bunch of keys of a storey building, consisting two bedroom flats and two self-contained, one bedroom flat

with boy quarters in Apo Resettlement Abuja; documents of land 900sqm located in Wasa District Abuja with C of O; documents of 900sqm land situated in Angwan Tiv Area of Apo Resettlement Area Abuja, a 900kva power generating set, nine copies of Deeds of Assignments belonging to a property in Apo Abuja, were recovered from the suspect.

"Yet to be recovered from him are a Mikano generating set, two duplexes in South Africa;



Sylvester Ehiarinmian, the suspect.

\$15,000 he fraudulently obtained from her to procure visa for the victim's sister, another \$10,000 he proposed to purchase carpets for an office they both agreed to operate and N40 million for the establishment of a medical laboratory."

However, when approached, the suspect denied the allegation, insisting rather that the woman was his lover.

He said: "I am waiting to get to court. The court has the final say."