

Police repel attack on station, kill eight hoodlums, recover seven vehicles

By Chidi Nkwopara, OWERRI.

A spirited attempt by unidentified armed hoodlums, to destroy the Divisional Police Headquarters, Orlu, was Thursday night, foiled by a combined team of security operatives.

The first information report that reached our correspondent, had it that the security personnel killed no fewer than eight of the invaders and recovered seven vehicles said to belong to the armed hoodlums.

Reports from residents of Orlu township showed that the gun battle between the attackers and the joint security operatives virtually lasted throughout the long night, while a competent source confirmed that a reinforcement from the 34 Artillery Brigade, Obinze, was sent, to beef up the fighting force in Orlu.

"The build up to the eventual gun battle, started in the early evening. People scampered into safety but some were caught unawares.

"Orlu roads and the adjoining communities were deserted. We didn't find it easy at all, throughout the night. It was very traumatic. There was palpable tension and panic in the town."

An unconfirmed story had it that an Armoured Personnel Carrier, APC, was torched by the hoodlums at Umu-na Junction, Orlu.

Although, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr. Orlando Ikeokwu, could not be reached for comments on the development, another reliable source in the Police Command that didn't want his name in print however, confirmed the story.