

2) Youth leader, 4 others arrested for kidnapping, murder in Akwa Ibom

By Chioma Onuegbu

UYO —OPERATIVES of the Inspector General of Police Tactical Team in Akwa Ibom State have arrested one Eddy Onuka, a youth leader of the Rice Miller Association in Oron Local Government Area of the state and four members of his gang for alleged kidnapping and murder in the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Odiko MacDon, who disclosed this to newsmen, weekend, while parading the suspects at the Police headquarters, Ikot Akpan-Abia, Uyo, said the suspects confessed to using AK-47 rifles during the operations.

MacDon said Onuka, a native of Oron Local Government Area masterminded the two kidnap incidents, one which involved one Emmanuel, whom they shot dead while trying to resist them and one Aniekan, whom they succeeded and collected over N20 million from him.

His words: "This is a clear case of kidnapping and it is a very unfortunate one. They went to abduct one Mr. Emmanuel, who sells engine parts and when they got there, the man resisted and they shot him.

"But Eddy Onuka was their leader. By the grace of God, the Special Tactical Team of IGP moved in and effected their arrest. That was the first incident. The second incident, the same Eddy led members of the same kidnapping syndicate and they succeeded in abducting one Aniekan and collected over N20 million from him as ransom.

"They confessed to the fact that they used AK-47 in that particular operation. He (Eddy) got N1.2 million, which he used in buying another car. His vehicle was used in committing the crime."

The PPRO said all the suspects played different roles in the kidnapping of the victim, noting that the bank account of one of them was used in collecting the ransom, while another person formed surveillance, giving them information about the deceased's movement.