

Hoodlums bomb police station, kill 2 officers in Imo, 17 suspects arrested

By Chinonso Alozie

OWERRI—HOODLUMS have bombed Isu Police station in Isu Local Government Area of Imo State, killing two police officers and injuring one officer last Sunday.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Michael Abattam, confirmed this to newsmen in Owerri, yesterday.

He said the hoodlums attacked the station with a petrol bomb and Improvised Explosives Devices, IEDs.

However, the police said the officers responded and gave the hoodlums a hot chase and as they ran into two hotels around the area and in the process, 17 suspects were arrested from those hotels as well as motorcycles and vehicles without identification numbers were recovered from the hotels.

Narrating how the incident happened, the police said: "On February 20, 2022 at about 2330 hours, armed men suspected to be members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)/Eastern Security Network (ESN) in their numbers came in two Toyota Sienna buses, a Toyota Camry car and an unspecified number of motorcycles, attacked the station from the rear axis because the station has no perimeter wall, shooting sporadically, threw petrol bombs and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) that ignited the station.

"The police operatives of the division immediately responded by engaging the hoodlums in a gun battle. Due to the superior fire-power of the police, the hoodlums were dealt a heavy blow and they scampered for safety, running in different directions with various gunshot wounds.

"The gallant police operatives did not relent, they gave the hoodlums a hot chase and while escaping some ran into Golden Suite Hotel and Isu Villa Hotel. The two hotels were immediately cordoned and raided and in the process, a total of 12 motorcycles without identification numbers and two

vehicles—a Lexus RX350 SUV and a Lexus RX330 SUV believed to have been used by the hoodlums, were seen and recovered. Also, 17 male and female suspects were arrested and undergoing interrogation.

Abducted nursing mother released after N3m ransom in Ogun

By James Ogunnaike

ABEOKUTA—A nursing mother abducted last week along the Rounder area of Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital by gunmen has been released after the family paid a N3 million ransom.

The woman, identified as Salimot Ajibola, was kidnapped while she was in a car with her husband.

Vanguard gathered that the couple were about to drive into their house when the kidnappers attacked them and took the wife away.

It was further learnt that the husband had passed out after the assailants hit

"However, the fire and IEDs affected some vehicles and part of the building of the division, and unfortunately, two police officers paid the supreme prize, while one sustained minor bullet injury on his head."

him on the head during the attack, but when he later regained consciousness, he discovered that the abductors had made away with his wife, leaving behind their maid and the baby.

Few hours after her abduction, the kidnappers called the family to demand N25 million ransom for her release.

"As negotiations continued, they reduced the ransom to N15 million. The family pleaded and they later settled for N3 million.

The N3 million was taken to a location described by the kidnappers. After they got the money, Salimot was released on Saturday night.

Suspected drug peddler, one other killed in Beyelsa renewed cult war

By Samuel
Oyadongha & Emem
Idio

YENAGOA—TWO persons including a suspected drug peddler were, yesterday, killed and many others injured in renewed cult war in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital between members of the Bobos and Iceland cult groups.

It was learned that the killings, which started in the early hours of the day at the OMPADEC area of the state capital, spread to other parts of Amarata suburb with residents scampering for safety.

A resident told *Vanguard* that the killing of the suspected drug peddler at the OMPADEC area at about 3 am by suspected Bobos cult members might have triggered the anger of the Iceland boys allegedly in control of the area.

The deceased suspected drug peddler, who some person claimed do not belong to either cult group, was reported to have had a verbal altercation with some unknown persons at a popular bar in Amarata area during a birthday party.

He was trailed to his house and shot twice before he was dealt machete cuts.

"We heard a gunshot fired at about 3 am," a source said.