

Rivers police kill Togo, rescue one-day-old baby from child traffickers

By Davies
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PORT HARCOURT— Police operatives in Rivers State have killed a notorious cultist and gunrunner, John Togo, who allegedly terrorised the coastal communities along Bonny-Port Harcourt waterways.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr Olatunji Disu, who spoke on the development, yesterday, said the suspect 'Togo the Second' was a member of the dreaded Iceland cult, adding that he reigned terror on residents of the state and sea travellers.

He said: "John Togo's criminal career began in the Borikiri area of Port Harcourt, where he initially engaged in cult-related activities. Gradually, he graduated from petty crimes and evolved into a full-fledged kidnapper and sea pirate, assembling a gang of ruthless criminals along the way.

"Adopting the alias of ex-militant, John Togo, who had been killed in July 2011, he and his gang gained notoriety in 2021, due to their involvement in series of sea piracy and kidnappings, which ignited the #EndSeaPiracy protests and campaigns that reverberated throughout Bonny Island in January 2021.

"Despite previous encounters with security forces, John Togo continued to elude capture. He targeted commercial boats, killing drivers and throwing passengers into the sea as he stole the vessels. In one such encounter on July 17, 2023, Togo engaged security forces in a shootout, compelling them to abandon their gunboat."