

# Kidnap kingpin, who abducted A'lbom judge, others, killed in C'River

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1 **UYO** - The Police in Akwa Ibom State have killed a dreaded kidnap kingpin, Ubong Effiong Archibong, a.k.a Condiment, during a gun battle in his hideout at Uyanga community in neighboring Cross River State.

This came as former lawmaker, Senator Shehu Sani, yesterday praised the people and residents of Gobir communities in Sokoto State for moving into the forests to confront the bandits who have been terrorising the area.

Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Akwa Ibom State command, ASP Timfon John, who disclosed news of the killing of the kidnap kingpin in a statement in Uyo, also disclosed that Archibong, who was the gang leader of Bling Bling Marine Strike Force terrorizing Uruan/Oron Waterways, was responsible for kidnap of a

• *Senator Shehu Sani asks communities to confront bandits*

High Court Judge, Joy Unwana and killing of her Police orderly, Inspector ThankGod Edet, among others.

She stated: "The state police command on Wednesday, August 28, neutralized a dreaded kidnap kingpin/sea pirate whose stock in trade was to kidnap, kill, maim and cause havoc in the society."

"The kingpin, Ubong Effiong Archibong (M), alias Condiment, a gang leader of Bling Bling Marine Strike Force terrorizing Uruan/Oron Waterways, was responsible for kidnapping of a High Court Judge, Joy Unwana, and killing of her Police orderly, Inspector ThankGod Edet, gruesome murder of the CEO, Emem and Sons Ltd, and kidnap of his sales representative."

"The suspect was also responsible for the kidnap of Pharmacist Joemel as well as the kidnap of Mr. Brown M, CEO of Mingles Hotel."

"The suspect was neutralized during a gun battle with operatives of the

command in his hideout at Uyanga community in Cross River State. One G3 rifle with four live ammunition were recovered from the suspect."

"The corpse of the suspect was recovered and deposited at the morgue. Investigations with intent to arrest other members of his gang are ongoing."

**Shehu Sani urges communities to confront bandits**

Meanwhile, Senator Shehu Sani has praised the people and residents of Gobir communities in Sokoto State for moving into the forests to confront the bandits who have been terrorising the area.

In a viral video seen online, thousands of residents from Gobir in Sokoto State stormed the forest in large numbers to confront the bandits.

Shehu Sani in his reaction to the video, said it was high time people took over the fight against banditry frontally

without fear, adding it was "no better time for People's Shahada Actions than now."

Shehu Sani, who expressed anger over the killing of Emir of Gobir and the incessant cases of kidnap by rampaging bandits in the northern regions, said failure of security agencies to tackle issues of insecurity, especially banditry, compelled him to make the call for People's Shahada Actions as the potent solution to contain the excesses of bandits.

In a post via his Facebook handle yesterday, Sani said: "The solution to the incessant and intractable problems of the cruelty and menace of banditry in the North West is a People's Shahada action, which is a masses movement, to fumigate and disinfect their lands, forests and farms

against banditry and bandits.

"This theory is aimed at permanently freeing the people from the criminality of kidnappings and killings, so they can take back their lives, their farms and schools."

"Vigilante and security agencies can all collaborate and cooperate on this in order to achieve results. May Allah bring peace to our dear country."

Sani, a human rights activist, had in the past raised alarm severally about how bandits took over the north and how they were able to establish governance structure.

"Virtually now, bandits in the North West have become a state within a state. They have been able to establish governance structure in the sense that they don't just kidnap and extort money, it has reached a point where

they even install," he said.

He had called on security agencies to make bold steps to solve problems caused by Boko Haram and the surging banditry before getting out of hands, while he was in the Senate as a lawmaker.

He equally did same, when he made a video speaking on the need to rescue the late Emir of Gobir before he was brutally killed by the bandits.

But this time, the former lawmaker rather enjoined all citizens and residents across the three geo-political regions of the north to move into the forests and dislodge all bandits.

"Enough of the killings of innocent people for no just reason. I strongly believe the People's Shahada Action is the best option to rid our region of bandits and criminal elements," he said with emphasis.

## FG okays 50% electricity subsidy for hospitals

• *N300m debt: Eko DisCo disconnects UNILAG*

2 **T**HE Federal Government has approved a 50 per cent subsidy for the electricity consumed in public hospitals across the nation.

This followed a promise by the

government was aware that universities and hospitals were having challenges paying high bills.

However, he said the federal government was planning to

public hospitals cried out that their bills had skyrocketed.

The Ministry of Power has yet to give details of the subsidy arrangement for the institutions, according to spokesman of the

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