

Police in Delta burst kidnappers' hideout, kill 4 suspects in gun duel

By Ochuko Akuopha,
Asaba

OPERATIVES of Delta State Police Command have shot four suspected members of a kidnapping syndicate dead in a gun battle at their hideout in a forest along Asaba/Agbor Express Road.

Police Public Relations Officer of the state command,

Mr. Bright Edafe, confirmed this in a statement, saying the syndicate was responsible for the series of cases at Ogwashi-Uku, Ibusa, Ubulu-Uku and environs.

He said the syndicate was responsible for the abduction of a medical doctor and killing of a realtor, Esther Ojoh.

Edafe disclosed that the state Commissioner of Police,

Mr. Olufemi Abaniwonda, has directed operatives of the CP-Special Assignment Team to embark on an intelligence-led investigation, following the abduction of a doctor at Issele-Uku on April 6, 2025.

The statement said: "In compliance with the said directive, the commander CP Special Assignment Team, ASP Julius Robinson, led his

team in a sting operation at about 2200hours of 10/04/2025 trailed and arrested one Abubakar Usman Popularly known as Shehu.

"The suspect is the gang leader of a deadly kidnapping syndicate and responsible for series of abductions at Ogwashi-Uku, Ibusa, Ubulu-Uku and environs and also responsible for the kidnap of the medical doctor and collected a ransom of N15,000,000.

"They were also responsible for the kidnap of the wife and daughter of Mr Godwin Anuka after killing him in Ogwashi-Uku area as well. He also confessed to being responsible for the kidnap of a realtor, Esther Ojoh, at Ibusa whose corpse was later found on the 25th March 2025.

"Acting on his confession at about 1100hours of 11th April 2025, the suspect led operatives to their hideout, a forest along Asaba/Agbor express road between Okpanam and Issele-Asagba where on the process of searching the area, the suspect raised an alarm and fled to join his waiting gang members."

South-East seaport key to ending Lagos gridlock — Igbo Community President

By Luminous Jannamike

The Igbo Community Association, FCT, has renewed its call for the Federal Government to approve a seaport in Nigeria's South-East and upgrade existing ports in the Niger Delta to ease the severe congestion affecting Lagos ports.

The association argued that a seaport closer to the southeast, an active hub for international trade, would reduce logistical bottlenecks, lower business costs, and boost

across the regions of Nigeria.

"It even makes for a good business decision to house the seaport closer to the source and facilitators of the international trade activities. This over-focus on the seaports in Lagos has become counterproductive and a tad nepotistic. It only makes economic sense to refocus the resources of the ministry of maritime and blue economy to decongesting that already congested Lagos.

"ICA FCT is proposing for the

Tinubu administration to begin aggressive consultation with experts to develop the working plans for a seaport in the south east.

"ICA FCT is calling on all South East based Unions and organisations to join in this push. There is a need not to continue to feed to the perception of South East being marginalized by the Federal government of Nigeria. It is not only morally right, it's good business practice for the country.