Editorial Suite

Contributed by Bala Dan Abu
Saturday, 26 November 2011

Kidnapping has remained a disturbing security problem in Nigeria many years after it was introduced as part of the strategies of the militants in the Niger Delta to draw attention to their struggle

Kidnapping has remained a disturbing security problem in Nigeria many years after it was introduced as part of the strategies of the militants in the Niger Delta to draw attention to their struggle. It had proved very effective in promoting their cause. They received global attention and in the process, made good money through ransome which state governments in that region paid to resolve the cases quickly and ameliorate the international disgrace which the kidnappers were subjecting the country to. The Niger Delta campaign has ended but kidnapping which the militants introduced has remained with us. Those desperate to make quick money have adopted it as another form of business. They have turned parts of the country, particularly, the South-East and the South-South zones into hell for their inhabitants and visitors. Kidnapping for money has also crept into the country’s higher institutions. Students whose parents sent there to study and acquire knowledge that would eventually make them useful to their country and their immediate communities are taking to kidnapping. They are not only tormenting people in and around their institutions but taking the campaign to other parts of the country. Such students live and act big on campus, unknown to many of their colleagues that they are criminals. But many of them are also getting caught in the act. In Cross River State, many of such criminals on campus have been caught and taken into custody by the state police command. So also in Akwa Ibom, Imo, Abia, Anambra and Enugu states. Recently, Demola Abimboye, principal associate editor and head of our investigation desk, was in Cross River State where some students who were arrested for kidnapping were being detained. He came back with highly disturbing stories of their confessions. That is what we have served you, our dear readers, this week as cover story. In it, the suspects tell tales of their involvement, how and why they took to kidnapping, their most successful outings, the money they make and how they spend it. The story is titled – Confessions of Undergraduate Kidnappers which Abimboye anchored.