

Suspected gunmen ambush police patrol, kill officer in Oyo



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- ***Police intercept truckload of suspected explosive materials***
- ***Kidnap attempt foiled, victim rescued***

A police officer has been killed in an ambush by suspected gunmen at Budo Masalasi Border Post in Oyo State.

The incident, which occurred about 2pm yesterday, happened as the Police who were on routine patrol in the area encountered a group of about 15 suspected bandits.

The source added that an exchange of gunfire ensued, during which the Inspector was hit. An unconfirmed source added that the assailants also seized his AK-47 rifle with 30 rounds of ammunition, bearing breach number 4516.

Spokesman of the **Oyo State Command**, Deputy Superintendent of Police Ayanlade Olayinka confirmed the development, saying preliminary findings indicated that some of the attackers sustained bullet injuries, and operatives were on their trail.

Also, the state Police Command has announced the interception of a truck conveying suspected explosive materials during a stop-and-search in Saki.

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According to the command, the operation was carried out based on credible intelligence, leading to the discovery of the suspicious consignment.

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In a statement, DSP Olayinka said the truck and the suspected explosive devices have been secured and are in police custody for further investigation.

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He assured residents that the command is taking steps to ensure public safety and prevent any potential security threats.

He said: "Upon receiving a briefing on the development, the Commissioner of Police, Oyo State Command, Femi Haruna, ordered a comprehensive investigation into the matter."

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A resident, Haruna Lawal, who was abducted at Olorunda Village, Oyo State has been rescued by operatives of the state Police Command.

The victim, who was abducted alongside his motorcycle, to an unknown location was rescued after his sister, Alimot, made a distress call to the Police to alert them of the invasion of the residence by suspected kidnapers who were said to be armed with dangerous weapons.

DSP Olayinka said the prompt response and aggressive bush-combing by the police exerted pressure on the suspects.

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He explained that as police operatives advanced into the area with patrol vans and sirens, the kidnapers, realising that security forces were closing in on them, abandoned the victim and fled, adding that the kidnapped victim was consequently rescued alive.

He said the victim sustained a head injury during the ordeal and was conveyed to the General Hospital, Oyo, where he is receiving medical attention.