

Soldier, four hostages killed in botched kidnap attempt on Chinese expatriates



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Three of the victims kidnapped by gunmen at Karanla community in Magbon, Mowe, **Ogun State** on Monday have been recovered dead, The Nation has learnt.

Their bodies and that of a hunter assisting troops navigate the terrain were recovered by security operatives while combing the creeks following the attack by gunmen at a private dredging site.

According to a source, the gunmen abducted five persons including a Chinese who escaped during exchange of gunfire with security operatives.

The 35 Artillery Brigade of the Nigerian Army in a statement by its spokesman, Major Idereghi Samuel Akari, confirmed the gunmen ambushed a joint security responding to a distress call in an attempt to kidnap Chinese expatriates working at the dredging site.

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According to Akari, a fierce exchange of fire ensued, during which one of the attackers was killed.



“The remaining assailants reportedly abandoned their mission and withdrew through surrounding forest terrain towards the Ogun River, taking five hostages as human shields to evade pursuit by a Quick Response Force deployed as reinforcement.

“The four hostages were later killed by the fleeing attackers before they escaped through the river channel with a boat. One of the hostages that escaped narrated how the assailants took the body of their dead colleague along with them.

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"Regrettably, a soldier lost his life during the encounter, while another soldier and two police officers sustained gunshot injuries.

"The deceased soldier and the recovered bodies of the hostages have been deposited at the mortuary of the General Hospital, Sagamu. The injured personnel are currently receiving medical attention," he said, assuring that reinforcement had been deployed in the area to restore calm and prevent further breaches.

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Giving an update on the incident, spokesman for the Ogun State Police Command, Deputy Superintendent of Police Boluwatife Babaseyi, confirmed that bodies were recovered during combing of the terrain on Monday, adding that three of the deceased were hostages taken by the kidnappers and the fourth, a hunter working with security operatives.

He said: "The attackers abducted four persons during the incident. Police operatives, in collaboration with the military and other security stakeholders, immediately launched coordinated search-and-rescue operations. One of the abducted victims was rescued, while the remains of the other three victims were later recovered.

"During the bush-combing exercise, a local hunter supporting the operation lost his life in an encounter with the fleeing criminals. The command extends its condolences to his family.