

Gunmen shoot policeman dead in Benue

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| By Johnson Idowu

Gunmen suspected to be bandits have shot dead a police officer identified as ASP Godwin Otse along Otobi Road in the Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State.

PUNCH Metro learnt on Tuesday that the incident occurred on Sunday while the deceased officer was travelling with his brother.

The brother was said to have disclosed that the gunmen attacked their vehicle at about 5:45 p.m. and opened fire, during which the officer sustained gunshot wounds.

A counter-insurgency expert, Zagazola Makama, who shared details of the incident on X, disclosed that the suspected bandits were dressed in army camouflage when they attacked the vehicle.

Makama wrote, “Sources said the incident was reported at about 6:45 p.m. on January 11 by a family member of the deceased, who stated that he was travelling with his elder brother, ASP Godwin O. Otse, a Police Special Constable attached to the Kano State Police Command, when their ash-coloured Honda Accord saloon car came under attack at about 5:45 p.m.

“The assailants, said to be armed bandits dressed in army camouflage, opened fire on the vehicle, fatally wounding ASP Otse.”

Following the attack, the injured officer was said to have been taken to a hospital, where he was confirmed dead.

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“He was rushed to the Federal University of Health Sciences Teaching Hospital, Otukpo, where he was confirmed dead while receiving treatment.

“The corpse was deposited at the hospital mortuary, while police recovered the deceased officer’s identity card at the scene,” Makama noted.

When contacted for a reaction, the Benue State Police Public Relations Officer, Udeme Edet, asked our correspondent to send details of the enquiry, with a promise to respond.

As of the time of filing this report, she had yet to do so.

With the ravaging insecurity across the northern part of the country, security operatives have increasingly become targets of gunmen.

PUNCH Metro reported in October 2025 that a policeman attached to a Joint Task Force, codenamed Operation Zenda, along the Otukpo–Ohimini Road in Benue State, was killed by gunmen.

The victim was identified as Inspector Akpan Ogbale of the Nigeria Police Force, while another officer was reported to have sustained injuries.