

Two kidnappers neutralised during gun duel in Ondo

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The exhibits. Photo: Police

By Johnson Idowu

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Two suspected kidnappers were killed during a gun battle with operatives of the Ondo State Police Command after the hoodlums allegedly invaded a block industry along the Akure–Owo Expressway in the early hours of Wednesday.

The police also recovered a locally fabricated pistol, live cartridges, four mobile phones, face masks and two ATM cards during the operation, while other members of the gang reportedly escaped into a nearby bush with gunshot injuries.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Abayomi Jimoh, disclosed this in a statement on Wednesday.

He said the incident occurred at about 3:30 a.m. when operatives attached to the Federal Highway Patrol Unit, Ilu-Abo, responded to a distress call over the activities of armed men at Olaiya Block Industry, located beside Ilu-Abo High School along the Akure–Owo Expressway.

According to Jimoh, preliminary findings showed that about seven masked gunmen invaded the premises and demanded to see the owner of the business before police operatives arrived.

He said, “Acting swiftly on credible intelligence, the police patrol team mobilised to the scene, where the suspects engaged operatives in a fierce exchange of gunfire.

“During the encounter, two of the suspected kidnappers were neutralised, while the remaining members of the gang escaped into the surrounding bush with varying degrees of gunshot injuries.”

The police spokesperson added that the bodies of the slain suspects had been deposited at the State Specialist Hospital, Akure, while the case had been transferred to the Anti-Kidnapping Squad of the State Criminal Investigation Department for further investigation.

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He said, “The command has commenced efforts to track and apprehend the fleeing members of the gang, who are believed to have sustained gunshot wounds during the encounter.

“Residents, particularly healthcare providers and members of the public, are urged to promptly report any individual presenting suspicious gunshot injuries or exhibiting suspicious movements to the nearest police station.”

Jimoh said the operation demonstrated the command’s determination to tackle kidnapping and other violent crimes across the state.

“This operation further underscores the unwavering resolve of the Ondo State Police Command to rid the state of kidnapping and other violent crimes.

“The command remains steadfast in its commitment to deploying intelligence-led policing, strengthening operational responses and ensuring that criminal elements have no haven within Ondo State,” he added.

The police operatives across the country have continued to neutralise kidnap kingpins in their bid to curb the menace of kidnapping

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PUNCH Metro reported on June 26 that operatives of the Ogun State Police Command killed two suspected kidnappers and recovered a firearm, cash and other items during a follow-up operation linked to the rescue of an abducted victim in the state.

The command had stated that the operation was carried out by its Anti-Kidnapping Unit as part of ongoing efforts to combat kidnapping and other violent crimes across the state.