

Gunmen kill 2 policemen, kidnap Indian, perm sec

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IT was another field day for gunmen who yesterday killed two policemen and a driver, and abducted an Indian headmistress in Eket, Akwa Ibom state, while the permanent secretary in the ministry of information and strategy in Imo state, Mr. Iyk Amafili was also kidnapped.

Amafili's abduction came just 24 hours after an expatriate; a Lebanese working with a construction company was abducted at Orji Junction on Owerri -Okigwe road on Monday.

State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Linus Nwaiwu said he was yet to get the information as at press time. But the commissioner for information and strategy, Dr. Kelechi Okpaleke, who confirmed the incident, said gunmen confronted Amafili at Egbeada while he was going home after closure of work.

It could not be ascertained as at presstime if the kidnappers have contacted the victim's family or placed any ransom on his head.

Also the whereabouts of the expatriate is still unknown but the police are said to be on the trail of his abductors.

Meanwhile, residents of Eket, Akwa Ibom state were thrown into fear yesterday as armed men stormed the area and abducted an Indian

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headmistress, Mrs. Lankhsing Tom Bush Itauma attached to Mobil Staff School.

Our correspondent who visited the scene gathered the driver and two police security details attached to the woman were also killed in the attack as the woman was going to work.

The incident was the second time a school principal was being kidnapped in less than one week in the state.

It will be recalled that last Thursday, wife of former Ogun and Rivers states governor, now a governorship aspirant in Akwa Ibom state, Group Capt. Sam Ewang was kidnapped.

Her whereabouts until now were not known as kidnappers are allegedly demanding N300million ransom for her freedom.

Daily Champion gathered that the kidnappers numbering over six came in a black Mercedes Benz 190 car.

It was gathered that the

victim's Avenus Toyota car was riddled with bullets, while the police orderly who attempted to subdue the kidnappers was killed.

The spate of kidnappings in the state may have been as a result of the recent clamp down on kidnappers in the neighbouring Abia State

Contacted, state police commissioner, Mr. Walter Rugbere confirmed the incident and said efforts were being made to track down the suspects as police are on the trail of the suspects.

He promised to smoke out the kidnappers as there would be no more hiding place for criminals such as kidnappers in the state.

He said: "I hope you are aware that two of my men were also killed by the hoodlums. There is no hiding place any longer for kidnappers especially in Akwa Ibom; we would ensure that the woman regains her freedom as my men are on their track".