

Gunmen kill cop, injure 2 others in Rivers

From Bashiru Abdullahi, Port Harcourt

UNKNOWN gunmen on Sunday killed a police officer and injured two others close to the Azikwe Police Station in Iloabuchi axis of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Our correspondent gathered that the gunmen, who drove in a Honda car, parked some distance away from the police station in Mile 2, Diobu area of the state capital, and opened fire on the policemen, who were carrying out a stop and search operation.

A witness, who lives in the area, Mr. Ernest Ogochukwu told newsmen that the hoodlums suspected to be armed robbers, were driving through Azikiwe road, and on noticing that the police had barricaded the area, they opened fire on them.

Confirming the attack, the Police Public Relations Officer of the state's Police Command, DSP Ben Ugwuegbulam said the attackers engaged his men in a gun battle, forcing them to abandon their duty post.

"The act was carried out by unidentified gunmen in a Honda car, parked along Able Jumbo Street, some distance away from Azikwe Port Harcourt Station. They fired in the direction of the police men, who were conducting stop and search in front of the station, then, the guards in the premises and the police men fired back," he said.

Ugwuegbulam added that an Inspector was injured in the leg and is currently undergoing treatment.