

# How two suspected killers of 3 cops in Edo died

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

Two of the suspected kidnappers who killed three police officers in Agor community on the Igarra-Auchi road in Edo State have died of bullet wounds.

The gunmen, suspected to be kidnappers, laid ambush and opened fire on the police at their duty post, killing three officers on the spot and injuring one

One of the suspects died in the bush from bullet wound, while the second suspect died in hospital in Benin where he was receiving treatment following injuries sustained during the attack.

A police source told City & Crime that two of the suspects were arrested alive with bullet

wounds, but that one of them died in hospital in Benin while the other was still receiving treatment.

The source said the suspects, who hail from Okene, Kogi State, came to Edo State to engage in kidnappings for ransom purposes.

"They attacked the police team that was on a regular patrol on the axis of the road in order to demobilise the operatives for an easy kidnapping exercise.

"The policemen just arrived at the spot and were sitting in their vehicle when the gunmen opened fire on them, but one of the officers who had escaped into the bush engaged them in an exchange of fire, killing one of the hoodlums while others escaped

with wounds and the officers' rifles.

He said the police reinforced and trailed them to their hideout when two of the suspects were arrested with injuries, while six AK-47 rifles, including those of the slain officers, were recovered from them.

"The two suspects were transferred to the state police command for further investigation, but one of them died in hospital. The surviving one has made useful statement and is now helping the police in their investigation."

Meanwhile, the Edo State Police Command has yet to make a public statement on the incident.