

Ex-militant killed in shoot-out with police

From **Alemma-Ozioruva Aliu**,
Benin City

THE spokesman of the Edo State Police Command, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Ahwara Ejiror, disclosed yesterday that an ex-militant and trainee of the presidential amnesty programme, Grikpa Louis, with identity card number ED/138 from Ikoro town in Ovia Local Council of the state, was killed during a shoot-out between the police and suspected kidnappers when the police stormed their hide-out. Four of the suspected kidnappers were paraded.

The police said the confrontation occurred in Iguekpe, a fishing and farming community across the Ogba River in Ovia North East Local Council of Edo State.

While briefing journalists, Ejiror said two of the suspected kidnappers, Waibi Amos Corper, 29, and Agbaro Ayimojo, 24, were arrested after the gun-battle with the police while the other two, Boro Pereweri, 65, and Godson Ekpe, 58, were apprehended as accomplices after they abducted two young men from Eweda village in Ogba near Benin City.

Ejiror said Waibi Amos and Agbaro were among the eight-man kidnapping team, which stormed Eweda village in Ogba at about 2.00 p.m. on Monday with guns to abduct the two young men. He said policemen at the Airport Police Station were alerted and a team of armed policemen from the station traced the kidnappers to their hide-out in Iguekpe village. They engaged the kidnappers in a gun-battle, which he said, led to the death of the amnesty trainee while two of them were apprehended.

The arrest of the duo, he said, led to the arrest of Godson Ekpe who was alleged to be the owner of the boat used in taking the kidnapped victims to their hide-out and Boro Pereweri, owner of the hut used as their hide-out.

But one of the suspects, Godson Ekpe, denied any involvement in the crime, saying his boat was stolen from where he kept it and that he only got to know about the incident yesterday morning when the police came to arrest him. The police said the suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are completed.