

Caught in the crossfire...

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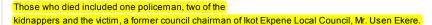
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Poor O O O Best RATE

· Policeman, two suspected kidnappers and the victim die during rescue mission

NO fewer than four persons lost their lives during a rescue mission between the Police and men suspected to be kidnappers in Ikot Ekpene Local Council of Akwa Ibom state.



Meanwhile, an official of the State Security Service (SSS) was seriously wounded, as a result of the gunshot.

The former council chairmen, it was alleged, was kidnapped three weeks ago and kept in the forest until Tuesday when the joint operation of the security operatives went to rescue him.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Etim Dickson, described the incident as a setback to the Command, noting that in any joint operations, casualties as such usually occurred.

"Well, it was not only the man. We also lost one of our police Corporals in the process. It is a big blow. You see these are some of the things we suffer as a result. You know this issue of rescuing

people at a joint operation, the story is true. One police officer died, one of the officers in the SSS who was also in the operation was injured. The two corpses of the kidnappers had been picked."

"The kidnappers had the boldness of firing at the police and the police shot their colleagues down. We were unable to rescue the man. What I was told was that the man was an old man and was kidnapped three weeks ago and kept in that forest. The man might have been exhausted."

"I understand from friends that they were demanding N50 million, which was too high. The man died before he was rushed to the hospital," the PPRO said.

Author of this article: From Inemesit Akpan-Nsoh, Uyo

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