

Three bandits killed, five injured during attempted bus hijack in Rivers

By Ann Godwin (Port
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Three bandits have been confirmed killed, while five others were severely injured as officers of the Rivers State Operation Sting foiled attempted hijack of a commercial bus.

It was learnt that the 18-seater bus was heading to Lagos from Port Harcourt, but at Rumuodogo along the East West Road at Emohua Council, armed bandits shot the tyres of the moving vehicle in an attempt to force it to stop to enable them abduct the passengers.

Spokesman of the Rivers State Police Command, Nnamdi Omoni, who confirmed the incident yesterday, said the driver was courageous enough to control the steering to a location where the new security officers were on patrol.

Omoni said when the command was alerted, the officers swiftly swung into action, but when the kidnappers sighted them, they opened immediately fire on them.

“But the gallant officers chased them into the bush, making them to abandon their mission, thereby foiling their attempt to hijack and divert the bus into the Rumuodogo forest,” he said.

However, Omoni said three of the hoodlums were killed, while five were injured and arrested after the encounter, adding that the arrested culprits were helping the police with useful information and that efforts were on to arrest other members of the gang who escaped.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen yesterday killed Chairman, Shade Owners Association at the Zaki Biam Yam Market in Benue State, Tavershima Achinge.

The Guardian learnt that the victim just returned home from the Zaki Biam Yam Market in Ukum Council when the gunmen appeared and opened fire on him, killing him instantly.

An eyewitness and close relation of the deceased said they were together at home when the incident happened, adding that those who were at the scene were fortunate to have escaped, as the hoodlums shot sporadically at the house, killing Achinge.

But, Caretaker Chairman of Ukum Council, Tyoakaa Ibellogo, who confirmed the incident, however, said the identity of the gunmen were still unknown.





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He, therefore, appealed to the Police to hunt the fleeing culprits, arrest and prosecute them, even as he urged security agents to intensify surveillance to avert future attacks.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Benue State Command, DSP Catherine Sewuese Anene, confirmed the incident, saying the Police have commenced investigation into the matter.

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