

Gunmen kill six policemen, soldier in another C'River attack

From Anietie Akpan,
Calabar

GUNMEN have reportedly killed no fewer than six policemen and a soldier in another attack at a checkpoint in Obubra on the Calabar-Ikom highway.

Several other policemen were injured and were said to be receiving medical attention at an undisclosed hospital.

This fresh attack is coming barely two weeks after four policemen were killed at a checkpoint in Idundu, near Calabar.

Police Public Relations

Officer (PPRO), Irene Ugbo, in a telephone interview with some newsmen, confirmed the incident, but insisted that only two policemen were killed and a soldier injured in the attack that occurred on Tuesday night.

Sources in Obubra told newsmen that the incident occurred around 11:00p.m on Tuesday at Ofotura and two officers were killed, while other four officers were killed at Oyadama checkpoint.

They said the attack started at Nko axis of the checkpoints along the highway to Obubra as the assailants

drove in a commercial vehicle suspected to have been snatched for the operation.

The Guardian further learnt that the gunmen attacked three checkpoints on the express road before meeting an Army checkpoint and that the Army overpowered them and they abandoned their bus and fled into the bush.

An Army officer, who was seriously injured, died with the policemen and their rifles seized.

Ugbo said the assailants took away only two rifles, adding that there had been a re-enforcement of security in the area and that a manhunt

for the assailants who later abandoned their vehicle and ran into the bush when engaged in a gun battle had commenced.

The state special security outfit, Operation Akpakwu had recently recorded some successes in routing out kidnappers, cultists, robbers and others, as the State Commissioner of Police (CP), Sikiru Akande, said the attack on policemen was aimed at dampening their spirits, but the hoodlums would not succeed.

"We will strike back and we will get all of them," he stressed.