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Four kidnapped in Ekiti, one killed

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One of the five persons allegedly kidnapped by yet to be identified gunmen died few minutes after they regained freedom.

Briefing newsmen in Ado-Ekiti, Commissioner of Police, Mr. Sotonye Wakama, said one of the victims died of dehydration, adding that an Abuja-based construction engineer, Mr. Tola Dakuna, and two officials of the First Bank Plc, Fidelia Nnaji and one Njideka suspected to be students of Federal University Oye Ekiti (FUOYE) were among the victims.

The victims were held for three days in captivity.

The police boss, who hinted that Mr. Dakuna was supervising some projects at FUOYE, said the victims were kidnapped between Ifaki and Oye Ekiti by the gunmen, going by the statement made by Mr. Dakuna's driver, Friday Raleigh

The police boss added that the ransom was later renegotiated to N3 million each and the payers were to drop the ransom at one block industry at Ifaki Ekiti, but the payment was botched by his men who had stepped up patrol on that road in a bid to apprehend the evil men.

Wakama explained that the criminals had on Thursday hurriedly released the hostages after the police command deployed its men to comb the bush where the victims were held.

The Police Commissioner said: "As explained by Mr. Dakuna's driver, they were coming from Akure to Oye Ekiti in a Sienna car when they were trailed by a car. While suspecting the car that was trailing them, another group came from the bush and stopped them. In an attempt to take a detour and return to Ifaki Ekiti, they saw two other persons pointing AK 47 rifles at them.

"They were later taken into the bush where they were held hostage for three days. But what makes us suspect they were also armed robbers was that, the first question they asked Mr. Dakuna when they stopped them was 'where is the money,' which means they were acting on information."

Wakama explained that his men were still on the trail of the criminals, assuring that they would be arrested soon.

He advised the residents to always give information to the police, "particularly when they see strange movements because kidnapping and robbery are crimes that require information from the people to curtail.

"The people will agree that our efforts to curb rape incidences in the state are now yielding results because of prompt information to the police.

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