

Police Kill 2 Kidnappers, Arrest 2 In Niger

BY ABU NMODU, Minna

Niger State police command has arrested two kidnap suspects and neutralised two others in a gun duel.

The command's PPRO, Wasiu Abiodun said yesterday that information was received that suspected kidnappers attacked a victim at Zolegi village via Saminaka-Lapai, inflicted a machete cut injury on his head and kidnapped his wife to an unknown destination.

"Police tactical team led by DPO Lapai and vigilante members mobilised and

stormed Saminaka forest where the kidnapped victim was suspected to have been kept by the abductors. While combing the forest, a gun duel ensued between the team and the hoodlums. During the gun battle, two among the hoodlums were neutralised while others escaped into the forest with bullet injuries, and one AK-47 rifle with twenty rounds of life ammunition was recovered," he said.

He said the abducted woman was rescued unhurt while the injured husband was taken to a nearby medical

facility for treatment.

The PPRO said based on credible intelligence received, police operatives attached to the FIB tactical squad arrested the two suspects.

He said the suspects, Umar Aliyu (35) from Diri-Ndaji, Kebbi State and Mohammed Abubakar (25) from Peregi, Kogi State were arrested at Kure Market Park during an attempt to board a commercial vehicle to Kebbi.

"During interrogation, Umar Aliyu confessed that he had participated in kidnapping activities at Sakaba in Kebbi last year and

that he recently relocated from there to Angwan-Kuka area of Bosso, Minna as he had been on the run," the PPRO said.

The police spokesman said Aliyu confessed further that he contacted Mohammed Abubakar from Kogi, a gang member he met at Sakaba to join him in Minna to proceed to Kebbi for a possible kidnap and that Mohammed came to Minna with an AK-47 rifle.

Abiodun said the suspects confessed that they were planning to get more arms and more men to assist in their intended operation.