

Three killed as gunmen attack Uduaghan's advance team

THREE persons including a policeman were killed and two others injured when gunmen yesterday attacked the advance team of Delta State Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan.

The other deceased persons were suspected members of the gang.

The incident occurred around Pamol Estate, Oghara near Sapele.

The team had left Asaba, the state capital, for the Warri Stadium ahead of the governor and his entourage.

From Okungbowa Alwerie, Asaba

They were to attend the Austin Jay Jay Okocha testimonial match.

A statement by the governor's Chief Press Secretary Sumy Ogejere said the incident occurred at about 2.30pm.

The statement reads: "At about 2.30pm the Delta Governor's advance security team encountered a gang of armed robbers operating along Pamol Estate, Oghara and engaged them in a shootout.

"In the ensuing shootout,

a police driver was killed while two others sustained minor injuries. Those injured are being treated. His Excellency's convoy was not affected by the incident and he has proceeded to the Warri Stadium for the scheduled Austin (Jay Jay) Okocha's testimonial match.

The Governor regrets the incident and wishes to assure the general public that everything is being done to ensure their security: He also praised the gallantry of the security team that dislodged the armed robbers".

Confirming the incident, the Commissioner of Police, Jacob Oshomogho, however refuted reports claiming that Uduaghan's convoy was attacked.

According to him, "Militants attacked a bullion van at Oghara. The Governor's advance party made up of military personnel ran into a hail of gunfire resulting in the death of a driver in the police escort"

The police spokesman, Mr. Charles Muka, who confirmed the development told *The Nation* "it is true that the governors convoy was attacked by gunmen