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Three die as police battle kidnappers in Rivers

 By [Bisi Olaniyi](#) | Published 23/06/2009 | [News](#) | Unrated

Three alleged kidnappers were feared dead in the early hours of yesterday at the Njemanze Waterfront, Mile One, Diobu in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

The three male youths, in their twenties, met their untimely death when officers of the Rivers State Police Command engaged them in a gun duel, while they attempted to move their victim to their den in the creeks, through the waterfront.

The victim, a medical doctor, was later rescued by the police.

Sources at the waterfront told *The Nation* that the policemen came in Toyota pickup patrol vans.

Besides the three persons killed, it was learnt that some of the kidnappers beat the police cordon and escaped through the waterfront.

When *The Nation* got to the area yesterday morning, artisans and petty traders in the area were busy with their daily activities, with some of them who witnessed the gun duel, declining to disclose their identities for security reason.

When contacted, the Police spokesperson, Mrs. Rita Inoma-Abbey, did not pick her phone but one of her aides who picked the call said she was busy and would call back.

Inoma-Abbey had neither called back nor replied the text message sent to her for confirmation, as at press time.

In a terse statement, the Rivers State Governor, Rotimi Amaechi, was quoted as urging the people of the state, particularly residents of Port Harcourt, not to panic over the shootings heard in the early hours of yesterday.

In the statement signed by his Acting Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Blessing Wikina, the governor confirmed that the shooting was during the foiling of a kidnap attempt at one of the waterfronts in Port Harcourt by the state's police command.

Amaechi said the police were on top of the situation, while enjoining the residents of Port Harcourt to go about their normal businesses, assuring them of adequate security.

The governor also appealed to residents of the state to always report suspicious movements around their surroundings to security agencies.

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