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Police and armed robbers often engage in cross-fires in the country

TWO policemen were feared dead yesterday in Ikorodu, a Lagos suburb, during

a shoot out with armed robbers.

It was learnt that two of the hoodlums were arrested with bullet wounds. They are helping the police with their investigation.

The suspects are being detained at the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) cell at the Command Headquarters, Ikeja.

An eyewitness told *The Nation* that the policemen were on patrol duty when the gang of robbers who were on their way to an undisclosed location in Ogun State opened fire on them.

It was gathered that the policemen, who were monitoring activities at a local market, were caught unawares by the bandits.

Police spokesman Frank Mba, who confirmed the attack, said nobody died.

Mba told *The Nation* that a policeman was injured, adding that he is receiving treatment in a government hospital.

He said: "A team of policemen in Itoikin, Ikorodu, while on routine anti-crime patrol came under unprovoked attack from a gang of armed men operating in an unmarked jeep. One of the policemen was seriously injured during the encounter and is in critical condition in one of the government hospitals.

"A reinforcement from two other Rapid Response Squad (RRS) patrol vehicles within the neighbourhood later chased the hoodlums to the verge of the boundary with Ogun State before engaging them in a shoot out. Two members of the gang were seriously injured before they were arrested.

"The case has since been transferred to SARS, while a serious manhunt for other fleeing members of the gang has also begun."