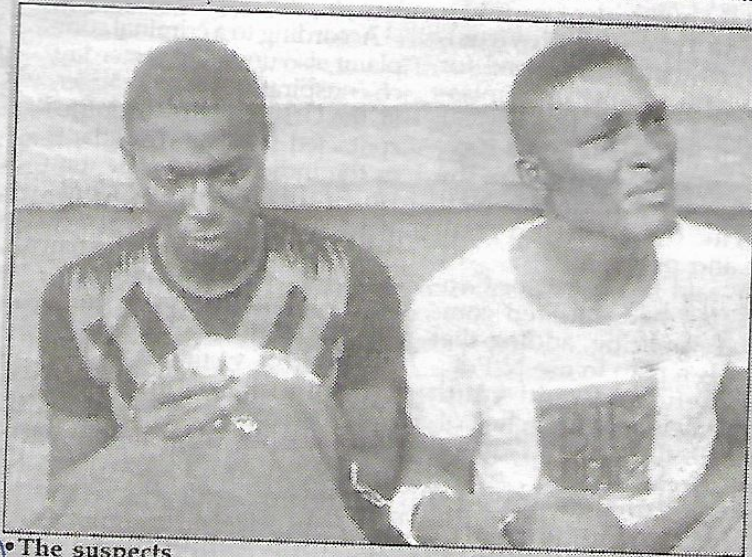


clothes in the vicinity.

Another account has it that

officer is being detained.



•The suspects



•The recovered arms and ammunition

**T**WO of the four suspected kidnappers arrested in Ogun State and one of their 'colleagues' have been killed.

The Nation learnt that they were on Wednesday killed during a gun battle with policemen.

The suspects, who were arrested at Ijebu waterside and were being moved to the command headquarters in Abeokuta by the team, were said to have been caught in a crossfire between policemen and their gang members, who laid ambush between J4 and Abigi in a bid to rescue them.

It was gathered that the four members of the gang allegedly responsible for the kidnap of three persons, including the son of a Chief Imam

## Three killed as 'kidnappers' move to free arrested colleagues

By Precious Igbonwelundu

on Sallah Day, were arrested after they came out of the creek where they had been hiding.

Although the police succeeded in rescuing the victims on August 16 and arrested one of the suspects, they were forced to retreat after some cops sustained injuries in the operation.

Police spokesman Abimbola Oyeyemi, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said detectives continued to trail the criminals who were hiding in the creek and their efforts paid off on Wednesday morning when four gang

members came out.

"They came out probably to relocate to another place, not knowing that they were being trailed. The police swooped on them and nabbed them. Two cut to size guns, four live cartridges, a cylinder, one boat engine and assorted charms were recovered from them.

"While the arrested suspects were being taken to the command headquarters in Abeokuta by men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), their other colleagues, who had laid ambush for them between Abigi and J4, attacked the team

with a view of freeing their arrested members.

"This resulted in a crossfire between the gang and the police. At the end, two of the arrested suspects and one of the attackers were fatally injured. One pump action gun belonging to the attackers and three expended cartridges were recovered on the scene of the ambush, while some of the attackers escaped with bullet injuries.

"The command hereby takes this opportunity to appeal to the public, especially hospitals, to report anybody seen with gunshot injury to the police in their area."

Teenager dad held for N1.2m (from 1/