

# Police discover decomposing bodies of two kidnap victims in forest

- Arrest two suspected kidnappers

February 20, 2021 in **News**, **News Update**

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## ***By Bisi Olaniyi, South-South Bureau Chief***

The Edo State Police Command, led by Phillip Ogbadu, has discovered and recovered decomposing bodies of two kidnap victims in the forest of the South-south state.

The policemen also killed two suspected kidnappers in a gun duel, while two kidnap victims were rescued.

Two of the kidnappers who recently seized on Sunday morning in church, the spokesperson of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) in Edo State, Mrs. Bridget Esene, also yesterday narrated how they seized the NIS chief and handed her over to criminal herdsmen in the forest.

The suspected criminals, Desmond-Ojo and Musa-Mohammed, who kidnapped the NIS spokesperson, said: "We followed the NIS' spokesperson from Ramat Park in Benin in Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area, on the way to Asaba and Onitsha in Delta and Anambra states respectively or Ekpoma and Auchi in Edo State and kidnapped her in the church at Ikhueniro, near Benin City.

"We drove Mrs. Esene from the church to a forest and handed her over to Fulani herdsmen, who took the NIS woman much deeper into the forest.

Ojo and Mohammed, according to a top police officer, who spoke in confidence, were also responsible for the kidnap of Mrs. Chinaza Nwaka, who was seized along Lucky Way, Ikpobal Hill, Benin in Ikpoba-Okha LGA of Edo State and she spent many days in the forest, before her release, after the payment of a huge ransom.

The two suspected kidnappers were shot dead by policemen in Ahor forest on Benin Bypass in Ovia Northeast LGA of Edo State, which had recently gained notoriety for kidnapping, armed robbery and cultism.

One of the two kidnap victims rescued by the police was the wife of a famous hotelier, who was kidnapped in the hotel premises, located in an undisclosed part of Edo State.

Edo Police Command, after receiving information from residents that a Benin-based businesswoman was kidnapped, decided to storm Ahor forest.

It was also gathered that Ojo, Mohammed and other members of their gang forcibly seized a businessman and snatched his Toyota Highlander Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), along Benin-Auchi Road in Edo State.

One of the victims, Mrs. Chinaza Nwaka, confirmed that she was kidnapped by the gunmen at the side of her car on Lucky Way, Benin on December 20, last year.

After their confessions, Ojo and Mohammed led police officers and men into Ahor forest, where they discovered decomposing bodies and other items.

The just-redeployed Edo Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Chidi Nwabuzor, a Superintendent of Police (SP), who confirmed the incidents, before his yesterday morning's unexpected redeployment, stated that the gang members had a gun duel with policemen, leading to the death of the two suspected kidnappers, with officers and men of the command still combing the forests, as at press time.