

Kidnap suspect shot dead, 13 victims rescued in Ondo

A SUSPECTED kidnapper has been shot dead by joint security operatives during a mission to rescue 13 persons who were abducted at Isua, headquarters of Akoko South-East Local Government Area (LGA) of Ondo State.

The 13 persons were head- ing to Abuja when they were abducted by gunmen and marched into the forest.

A source said the victims were travelling in an 18-pas- senger bus travelling to Abuja from Lagos.

The source said: "It was like a movie when an Abuja-bound

**From Osagie Otabor,
Akure**

bus was waylaid on Tuesday by some unknown gunmen at Isua, the headquarters of Akoko South East Local Gov- ernment, and 13 passengers were marched to the forest."

Security operatives com- prising men of the Amotekun corp, soldiers, the police and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps were said to have stormed the forest in a bid to rescue the victims.

It was gathered that the vic- tims were rescued at the Ika- kumo area in Akoko North-

East LGA, a distance of almost 20 kilometres from Isua where they were picked.

The rescued victims were said to have been taken to the Isua Police Station.

Ondo Police spokesman, SP Funmilayo Odunlami- Omisanya, who confirmed the incident, said one of the kid- nappers was shot dead when the security men engaged the kidnappers in a shootout.

She said: "The victims were rescued by the joint security operation. One of them was killed during a gun duel. We are on top of the situation."