

Suspected herdsmen kill naval warrant officer, kidnap 17 in Edo

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SUSPECTED herdsmen struck on Wednesday on the Benin-Lagos highway, near Ekiadolor, killing a Naval Warrant Officer.

This is as 18 passengers travelling from Akwa Ibom State to Lagos State were kidnapped by the hoodlums.

The quick response of policemen who swung into action on receiving the information resulted in the rescue of 17 passengers

from the four herdsmen.

The kidnappers, who were all armed with AK-47 rifles opened fire on the Lagos-bound 18-seater bus as it approached Ovia River from Ekiadolor, Ovia North East Local Government Area of the state.

A victim and eyewitness narrated that after their bus was forced to screech to a halt, all the passengers were robbed of their money, handsets and other valuables, while eight of the passengers were hand-picked and force-marched

into the bush, leaving the other 10 behind.

He explained that as the kidnappers were taking the other victims to their camp in the Ovia forest, the naval officer, Warrant Officer Felix Akanbi, who could not walk as fast as others, was shot dead by the suspected herdsmen.

It was learnt that on receiving the information, the Divisional Police Officer in charge of the Ekiadolor Police Division mobilised his men to go after the kidnappers and the victims.

It was gathered that after combing the bush for over two hours, the police rescued the seven victims alive and recovered Akanbi's body.

The state police spokesman, Mr Chidi Nwabuzor, said the police were combing the bush in search of the kidnappers, adding that the naval officer was close to retirement before his death.

Nwanbuzor said the police would do everything possible to fish out the kidnappers and bring them to justice.

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