

Two policemen feared dead as suspected gunmen abduct medical director in Edo

Hendrix Oliomogbe | Benin

A gang of heavily-armed men on Monday struck at uptown Ikpoba hill, Benin City and abducted the Chief Medical Director of one of the specialist hospitals in the state.

During the incident, which occurred about 10:00 a.m., the doctor's vehicle was riddled with bullets while two policemen attached to him and who rode inside the car were feared dead.

According to an eyewitness who refused to disclose his name, people ran helter-skelter when the bandits, who apparently laid an ambush for the medical director shot at the vehicle as he got to the Edo

State capital from Esan Central Local Government Area of the state, about an hour drive.

The eyewitness, who said he ran away and hid in a nearby bush, explained that the shooting which was like a scene from a Nollywood movie, left the bullet-proof vehicle relatively unscathed, but was shocked when the driver suddenly stopped the car by the roadside, jumped out and dashed off to the bush.

In the process, he said that the gunmen used the butts of their rifles to smash the windows and wind-screens of the ill-fated vehicle and fatally shot the two police escorts.

He explained that the

chief medical director was dragged out of the car after the policemen were killed and driven away in their vehicle to an unknown destination.

The state's police spokesman, Mr. Chidi Nwanbuzor, who confirmed the incident, said that the command was on top of the situation and was determined to arrest the culprits and free the victim.

Nwanbuzor, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said: "The incident happened but we are still investigating. We have yet to determine the identity of the victim. We don't know how many people were killed. We are on the trail of the kidnappers."

Meanwhile, the state police command has dismissed three policemen attached to the state government security outfit, Operation Wabazighan, for engaging in unprofessional conduct and losing their service guns.

Nwanbuzor gave the names of the policemen, who have since been docked, as Sergeant Emmanuel Uzor, 35; Corporal Michael Akharemen, 31 and Constable Jimoh Halilu.

He said that the three policemen had checked into a hotel in the Uwasota neighbourhood of Benin, and later stepped out without their guns, only to discover later that two out of the three guns were missing when they returned.