

2 killed as gunmen kidnap 10 in Edo

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THERE was pandemonium in Benin, the Edo State capital on Thursday as kidnappers killed two persons and abducted 10 others in two different operations on the Benin-Auchi Road, around Obagie community.

The latest incident came

on the heels of the abduction of some final students of the Federal Polytechnic, Auchi along the same road.

A source said the deceased include a member of the local vigilance group and a passenger in the commercial bus used to barricade the road.

It was gathered that the hoodlums, who emerged from the bush, forced the commercial bus to stop at gun point, after which they

kidnapped the victims.

It was also learnt that the driver of a truck who refused to stop after he was flagged down by the gunmen rammed into the bus, killing one person.

The development was said to have caused gridlock on the road which connects the northern part of the country with the Niger Delta region, as motorists abandoned their vehicles and scam-

pered for safety.

A police source disclosed that the whereabouts of the 10 kidnapped victims had not been known, noting, however, that security agents had been deployed to the area.

Spokesman of the Federal Polytechnic, Auchi, Mr Mustafa Oshiobugie, said he was not aware of the kidnap of the students.

Oshiobugie said: "The

polytechnic is not aware of the kidnap of any of our student. It has not got to our notice. We are not aware and so I cannot comment on it."

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the command, Chidi Nwabuzor, confirmed the development.

He said: "Yes, the command is aware of the kidnap, but we are yet to ascertain the number of passengers who were kidnapped. Un-

fortunately, in the process, a member of one of the vigilante groups was killed during a gun duel with the kidnappers."

According to the PPRO, "the vigilante group in the community engaged the kidnappers and one of its members was killed."

"Efforts are already ongoing to free those kidnapped, while other information will be revealed as we progress."

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