

# Two policemen shot dead at checkpoint in A'Ibom

Iniobong Ekponta | Uyo

**G**UNMEN on Wednesday killed two policemen manning a checkpoint at

Urua Inyang, headquarters of Ika Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

A journalist and chairman of the Federated Chapel of the state council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Inimfon Silas, who hails from the area, said: "the armed hoodlums, rid-

ing on several motorcycles, stormed the checkpoint and shot the two policemen dead, while others fled, as the hoodlums seized their rifles and set their patrol van ablaze."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Odiko Macdon, who confirmed the incident to newsmen on Wednesday, said he was in the company of the Commissioner of Police (CP), Amiengheme Andrew, for an on-the-spot assessment to the scene of

the attack at Ika.

Amiengheme said: "We are in Ika, trying to gather more facts on the incident," adding that he would be in a better position to give further details after the visit.

He, however, said the commissioner of police and the entire police community in the state were saddened by the development, given the fact that some officers of the command had earlier this month been killed by hoodlums and others declared missing.

The latest killings brought to five the number of policemen killed in the line of duty in Akwa Ibom by gunmen in recent time, while four others have been declared missing.

Two inspectors were set ablaze and a leader of the Quick Response Squad (QRS), a chief superintendent of police (CSP) was also shot dead while leading the squad to confront armed hoodlums in their base in Ikot Akpan in Essien Udim Local Government Area.