

Vigilante, suspected kidnappers engage in gun duel in Kwara

Biola Azeez | Ilorin

RESIDENTS of Koro community in the Ekiti Local Government Area of Kwara State were on Sunday thrown into apprehension as members of local vigilante team on a mission to rescue three kidnapped members in the community engaged suspected kidnappers in gun duel.

The *Nigerian Tribune* gathered that one of the kidnapped victims, said to be the All Progressives Congress (APC) women leader, Mrs Olumo Sunday Abolaji, got killed in the process.

Eight members of the APC were reportedly abducted last Wednesday between Araromi Opin and Obbo-Ile in the Ekiti Local Government Area of the state while returning from the inauguration of the APC's State Executive Committee in Ilorin, the state capital.

Five victims of the abduction were said to have escaped with injuries.

Some of the victims are Daniel Adewuyi, the Isapa Ward chairman in Ekiti Local Government Area; Eruku ward chairman; Women Leader Eruku; Women Leader Obbo Ile, and the Chairman Obbo Ile Ward as well as Women Leader of Koro ward, and Women Leader Isapa ward, among others.

However, it was gathered from sources in the area that a politician in the area had on Saturday

morning released a sum of N20 million demanded as ransom by the suspected kidnappers to members of the local vigilante team towards effecting release of the three victims in Osi forest.

"As the hunters dropped the ransom, the kidnappers too released the three abducted women leaders. Sighting the women, however, the hunters were said to have opened fire on the kidnappers, while in return one was said to have fired back and the shot hit one of the women, Mrs Olumo Sunday Abolaji, women leader Koro ward, killing her on the spot.

"The hunters were said to have scampered for safety and the remaining two women released.

"As at early Sunday morning Koro hunters had regrouped and were said to be on their way to Osi forest to evacuate the corpse of their dead compatriots", the source said.

Speaking, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Okasanmi Ajayi, said that he was yet to be briefed about the matter.

There has been no official statement from the police on the kidnap and the cross-fire between the hunters and the suspected kidnappers.

But the chairman of APC in the state, Prince Sunday Fagbemi, said that two of the three victims were rescued alive.