

Gunmen kill policeman, okada rider, take away rifle in Warri

Police smash kidnap syndicate, kill three

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SUSPECTED armed robbers on Sunday shot dead a policeman and a motorcycle rider at Effurun, Delta State.

According to the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Bright Edafe, the gunmen also made away with an AK-47 rifle belonging to the police officer.

However, a source claimed the policeman was carrying two rifles at the time of the attack and that the gunmen snatched both.

The incident, which led to pandemonium occurred at about 9:30 a.m at Uti Junction in Effurun, in Uvwie Local Government Area of

the state.

It was gathered that the motorcycle rider was conveying the mobile policeman on his motorcycle when they were suddenly shot by the gunmen.

Commercial motorcycle operation is banned in most towns and cities in Delta, particularly Warri.

A source said the gunmen had trailed the policeman in a car before getting to the area where they shot him and the okada rider and made away with the two rifles.

The source said: "The deceased policeman was carrying two rifles; one for his colleague, who was not on duty at the moment, while the

other one belonged to him.

"After the attack, the criminals shot indiscriminately into the air to scare residents before they zoomed off in their vehicle."

In another development, three members of a gang have been killed and one fabricated revolver pistol recovered when police operatives smashed their attempt to rob and possibly kidnap occupants of a bus near Umunede, on the Asaba-Benin highway over the weekend.

The hoodlums had on Sunday afternoon emerged from the bush and shot at the bus in an attempt to kidnap the occupants, unknown to them that the oc-

cupants were undercover police operatives.

According to a statement by DSP Edafe on Monday, the police team disembarked from the vehicle and returned fire.

He said the hoodlums, on realising that their potential victims were policemen, ran into the bush, during which a gun duel erupted with the gang.

Edafe said three of the wounded kidnappers were taken to the hospital but died while receiving treatment.

Six 7.62mm live ammunition and four expended 7.62mm ammunition were recovered from the suspects.