

Police kill three suspected kidnappers, rescue 13-month-old baby in Edo

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THE Edo State police command on Wednesday said its personnel neutralised three suspected kidnappers out of a six-man gang that abducted a 13-month-old baby in Achigbor Community on the the Benin-Auchi road in Uhumwonde Local Government Area of the state.

The command's deputy spokesperson, Jennifer Iwegbu, in a statement, said police operatives got a tip-off from the mother of the baby and immediately went after the kidnappers.

The statement reads: "In its continuous bid to tackle kidnapping, the Edo State police command has neutralised three kidnappers.

"A distraught resident, Elizabeth Ojo (42) of Achigbor Community on the Benin-Auchi road, in Uhumwonde LGA of Edo State, at about 7:30p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, raised an alarm that kidnappers came to her compound.

"The police operatives working along the axis immediately mobilised and moved to the scene, where they came to an empty compound that had been vanda-

"On enquiry, Ojo said some hoodlums suspected to be kidnappers vandalised her property and took her 13-month-old baby into the bush.

"The operatives immediately moved into the bush for possible rescue of the baby.

"The kidnappers, on sighting the police, threw the baby into the bush and opened fire on them.

"In the firefight with police operatives, three of the six kidnappers succumbed to our superior firepower.

"The other three are still on the run, while bush combing of that area is still ongoing.

"The baby was rescued unhurt and handed over to the mother, while one cut-to-size double barrel gun, one cutlass and one battle axe were recovered at the scene.

"The Commissioner of Police in the state, Abutu Yaro, commended the operatives for their timely intervention and urged the good people of Edo State to be more security conscious and vigilant, even as the year is coming to a close."