

② 4 killed as gunmen attack okada riders, state transport bus in Benue

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NO fewer than four people were reportedly killed by gunmen who laid ambush along Naka/Makurdi road on Friday night.

The gunmen were reported to have shot at two motorcycle riders, occupants of a truck vehicle and a vehicle belonging to Benue State Transport Company popularly known as Benue Links.

An official of the transport company who spoke to *Sunday Tribune* on the condition of anonymity said "Benue Links was one of the vehicles attacked on that road that

day.

"We gathered that while the bus was moving from Makurdi to Otukpo, two motorcycle riders were moving in front of them with another truck ahead of them.

"All of a sudden, the driver saw the truck driver jump down and ran into a bush.

"In a flash, he saw that the gunmen shot the truck conductor; they also shot the motorcycle riders and the driver of the Benue Links bus as bullets hit one of the passengers sitting by the window and one other passenger on the leg.

"One of the passengers

died inside the vehicle and others ran inside the bush.

They said the attackers were dressed in military uniforms with AK47 guns in their hands.

The official further explained that the attackers wanted to kill all the passengers because they shot directly at people and later shot at the fuel tank of the bus with the hope that the vehicle would burst into flames.

The Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO), Benue State police command, Catherine Anene, confirmed the incident on Saturday while

speaking with our correspondent in Makurdi.

Anene narrated that the bus, which was loaded with passengers, was ambushed and attacked by gunmen around Naka, Gwer West Local Government Area, around 8 pm on Thursday.

Anene said, "Three people were injured but the quick intervention of security agencies stopped the assailants from causing further havoc."

She added that the injured passengers were taken to the hospital for treatment where one of them eventually died.