

Police kill five kidnappers on Lagos-Ibadan expressway

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OPERATIVES of the Ogun State police command on Wednesday killed five suspected kidnappers operating on the Lagos-Ibadan expressway.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), CSP

Omolola Odutola, in a statement, said the hoodlums were in their hideout when the police engaged them.

Odutola said the Area Commander, Sagamu, last Saturday, received a distress call from commuters travelling on the Sagamu-Ijebu Ode highway, that there was an armed robbery attack near Ilishan-Remo area of the state.

The PPRO said a team of officers were immediately deployed in the area, adding that the officers, upon arrival, noticed that a group of gunmen had set up a roadblock using an articulated truck and were indiscriminately firing on passengers, causing widespread panic.

She said three commuters, Bolaji Bilesanmi (65), Olas-

unkanmi Idowu (50) and Mohammed Salisu (age unknown), were abducted and whisked inside the forest from two vehicles, a Honda Pilot with registration number LAGOS EKY113GZ and a Honda Accord Car marked LAGOS KJA13QFA.

She explained that the Commissioner of Police, Lanre Ogunlowo, immedi-

ately directed the operatives to locate the hideout of the hoodlums.

The kidnappers, upon sighting the police, were said to have opened fire, while the police engaged them, leaving five dead, while others escaped with gunshot wounds.

Odutola said one AK-47 rifle, 10 rounds of 5.6mm

calibre ammunition, N5.2 million, suspected to be proceeds of crime and three mobile phones were recovered from the scene.

She said the three kidnapped victims were rescued unhurt by the police, adding that efforts were already ongoing to arrest the injured members of the gang.