

Gunmen kidnap Filipino, kill policeman

GUNMEN in southern Nigeria on Tuesday kidnapped a Filipino national working as a subcontractor for oil company Shell and killed at least one policeman who was escorting him, industry sources said.

"One Filipino was kidnapped at 9:00 am and two riot police were killed on the Owerri-Port Harcourt road," a private security advisor said, adding that the Filipino was a Shell subcontractor.

Another industry source said only one policeman had been killed in the incident.

The second industry source said the incident happened around Aba, a town linking Owerri and Port Harcourt.

Speaking on the development, the Force Public Relations Officer, Mr. Haz Iwendi said, "I can confirm the Filipino was taken away and a policeman shot but I can't say if he's dead."

Iwendi added that it happened in Imo State.

The latest kidnapping brings to 30 the number of foreigners currently held hostage in southern Nigeria's oil-producing region.