

Expatriate kidnapped in Imo

Fidelis Soriwei, Owerri

AN expatriate was kidnapped by gunmen at Obiangwu, Ngor/Okpala Local Government Area of Imo State, less than two kilometres away from the Sam Mbakwe International Cargo Air Port Owerri on Tuesday.

According to an eye-witness, the gunmen who had been in hot pursuit of the car in which the expatriate, said to be a Filipino was travelling, also shot and killed a policeman on duty in the area before whisking him away to an unknown destination.

A second policeman was said to be critically injured from gunshot injuries received from the kidnappers.

The source also added that the kidnappers did not take anything from the vehicle in which the abducted Filipino was travelling.

The injured policeman, it was learnt, was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The Sam Mbakwe International Airport now handles domestic flight erstwhile handled by the Port Harcourt Airport, following the commencement of repair works on the latter.

Besides, the airport has

been the only airport servicing Nigerians and foreigners from the South-South and some of the states of the South-East.

But the spokesman of the Imo State Police Command, Alhaji. Isah Bala, a deputy superintendent of police, told journalists that while he had received telephone calls on the issue from several people including the British High Commission, the command had not received any official report on the incident.

According to him, the authorities of the command had contacted the Divisional Police Officer in charge the Highway Patrol Unit, and his counterpart at the airport, saying the command was yet to get a report of the abduction of the foreigner and the attack on the two policemen.

Bala stated that the area covered by the airport road cut across the three states of Imo, Abia and Rivers, adding that such an issue had not been brought to the attention of the command.

Our correspondent could not ascertain the identity of the abducted foreigner as at the time of filing the report.