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## Bandits kill police officer, injure two

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DAREDEVIL armed robbers on Friday shot and killed a mobile policeman at Ekom Iman Junction in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital.

The hoodlums were said to have taken a group of policemen, who were on patrol in the area, unawares before they opened fire at their vehicle.

Our correspondent gathered that two other policemen in the vehicle received gunshot injuries and were immediately taken to a nearby hospital.

An eyewitness, who was close to the scene of the attack, told SUNDAY PUNCH that some passers-by took to their heels while others scampered for safety immediately they heard the first gunshot.

It was learnt that the robbers drove off to an unknown destination immediately after the operation.

However, the names of the affected officers could not be identified as at the time of filing this report.

Confirming the incident, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Gab Ngban, expressed sadness over the development.

Ngban stated that the police command was currently on the trail of the hoodlums, adding that no stone would be left unturned in its determination to track down the assailants.

"It is a sad development. We are on their trail now and I can assure you that the police will do everything within their strength to arrest those involved in such a despicable act," Ngban noted.

Explaining that armed robbers were currently finding it difficult to operate as a result of improved security in the state, Ngban argued that this might have led them to attack the police.

He noted that such an act would not deter the police from ensuring that the lives and properties of those in the state were safe.

The command's spokesman called on members of the public to report any suspicious movement to the police, adding that such would enable the police to apprehend criminals within their midst.

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