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Six die in police, kidnappers' shootout

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No fewer than six suspected kidnappers were shot dead on Sunday along Igbanke-Ewohimi Road in the Esan South-East Local Government Area of Edo State.

The suspected kidnappers died during a gun battle between some policemen and the gang.

Commissioner of Police, Edo State Command, Folunso Adebajo, told *PUNCH Metro* that the incident occurred at about 4am when policemen went in search of the kidnappers in their den.

Adebajo explained that the gang had kidnapped a woman and kept her in a forest around Igbanke-Ewohinmi Road. He added that four of the slain suspected kidnappers had earlier been apprehended by the command.

He said, "When the kidnappers sighted the policemen, two of them opened fire. They were, however, killed by the policemen who overpowered them during a shootout."

The commissioner added that the four suspects, who led the police to the hideout, were confirmed dead by a medical doctor at the Stella Obasanjo Hospital, Benin, following fatal injuries sustained in the gun duel.

"Our men chased those who fled into the nearby bush with bullet wounds. We also embarked on a search around the scene. A huge sum of foreign currencies and arms were recovered.

" Among the items recovered from the assailants were one pump action gun with four rounds of live cartridges, four cut-to-size single-barrelled gun, 72 live cartridges and one locally-made revolver pistol.

The commissioner added that a Mercedes Benz C-Class car marked, AGL 133 CX, \$8,200, 20,000 Francs CFA, Five Dirham's United Arab Emirate Currency, N8,500 and 12 sim cards were recovered from the gang's hideout.

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