

Three FCT cops murdered, police begin manhunt for killers

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Commissioner of Police, Federal Capital Territory, Muhammad Mustafa

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Suspected gunmen in the early hours of Tuesday shot dead three policemen at the Idu Industrial Estate, Karmo, Abuja.

The police officers were on patrol when they were attacked and killed by their assailants.

The names of the fallen men were not disclosed by police authorities because their families had not been officially informed about their demise.

It was learnt that investigation had commenced into the attack and detectives had launched a massive manhunt for the gunmen.

Following the attack, the FCT Commissioner of Police, Muhammad Mustafa, summoned an emergency meeting of senior police officers where new security strategies were designed.

Our correspondent, who visited the crime scene, observed that the officers were killed close to a police post along the Idu-Karmo Road.

The police post – a container painted in police colours, was at a lonely stretch of the road.

About 14 armed policemen, including men of the State Anti-Robbery Squad were at the crime scene, when our correspondent visited the spot.

A senior officer said that many police officers had been deployed in the surrounding bush to fish out the attackers.

“Many of our officers have been combing the bush for the criminals. We are on their trail and I’m confident that we will get them soon,” he said.

A mechanic, who declined to give his name, said the policemen were probably caught off guard by their assailants, noting that the killing appeared to emanate from a surprise attack on the policemen.

He said, “This morning we heard that three policemen were killed by suspected armed robbers. Some ‘okada’ riders saw their bodies on the ground and alerted police authorities who evacuated them to a hospital.

“It seems the men were already dead before the police arrived at the scene. From the look of things, the men were taken unawares by their attackers, otherwise, they should have been able to repel the attackers.”

It was gathered that the ‘stop-and-search’ operation carried out by policemen after the incident caused a serious traffic gridlock around the area, forcing many motorists to turn back and look for alternative routes to their destinations.

The FCT Police Public Relations Officer, Manzah Anjuguri, confirmed the incident, adding that investigation had commenced into the case.

“The CP has directed the deputy commissioner in charge of the State CID to immediately initiate an investigation into the attack. That is the only information I can give for now,” he stated.