

up in a cell and the following day, they transferred us to

we saw that the police had arrested the team that came

after assessing the whole issue, we were told to find someone,

said investigation was ongoing on the matter.

more paid on Friday after PUNCH Metro went to town

Command kills suspected kidnapper, rescues victim in Rivers

Chukwudi Akasike,
Port Harcourt

PERSONNEL of the Inspector-General of Police Unit in Rivers State, on Tuesday, killed a kidnap suspect during a shootout in the Ogbodo Isiokpo forest in the Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state.

They also rescued a kidnap victim, one Dr. I. I. Samuel, during the fierce gun battle with the hoodlums, around 2pm.

It was gathered that Samuel, who was abducted from his residence on Monday, was rescued two days after.

The state Police Public

Relations Officer, Nnamdi Omoni, said the kidnappers opened fire immediately they sighted the team of policemen, who had been combing the bush with a view to rescuing the victim.

Omoni stated that one of the suspected kidnappers was killed in the crossfire, while others sustained gunshot injuries.

He said, "Men of the IGP Monitoring Unit, led by the Commander, DCP Benneth Igweh, on Wednesday around 2pm, acting on credible information and deploying technical intelligence, stormed a thick forest at Ogbodo Isiokpo in the Ikwerre Local

Government Area of Rivers State, where one Dr I. I. Samuel, who was kidnapped on Monday, March 18 around 3am from his residence, was kept by the kidnappers.

"On sighting the police in the forest, the kidnappers opened fire on the cops, and in the ensuing gun battle, one of the kidnappers was fatally wounded, while several others escaped with gunshot wounds."

Explaining that the victim was rescued unhurt, the police spokesperson added that N500,000, suspected to be the ransom paid for his release, was recovered from the kidnappers' den.

Also recovered, according to Omoni, were one locally-made revolver pistol, one long single-barrelled gun, six cartridges and two live ammunition.

He added that efforts were on to arrest the fleeing members of the gang.

Omoni added, "Earlier, men of the Eagle Crack Squad, led by the Commander, CSP Ademola Adebayo, in a covert operation in the wee hours of today (Wednesday), arrested the duo of Chimezie Owariwa and Chukwudi Ude Michael, who are members of a criminal gang terrorising the Oroworukwo and D/Line communities in the Port Harcourt Local Government

Area of Rivers State.

"Exhibits recovered from them were one AK-47 rifle, two magazines, 10 rounds of 7.65mm live ammunition and a machete.

"The squad has intensified efforts at ensuring the arrest of other members of the deadly gang, while the ones arrested are still helping us in our investigation and will be charged to court as soon as investigation is concluded."

The command, he added, appealed to members of the public to report to the nearest police station any person or persons seen with gunshot wounds.