

Benue vigilante dies rescuing three victims from kidnappers

John Charles, Makurdi

A member of the State Volunteer Guards, Peter Ejembi, has been killed by suspected kidnappers during an attempt to rescue some abducted victims along Otukpo-Onitsha in Benue State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that during the operation on Tuesday, the suspects, who intercepted a Toyota Hiace bus and abducted some passengers, engaged the combined security operatives in an exchange of gunfire and Ejembi shot dead.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, in a statement, said that the command received information around 11.30pm that a Toyota Hiace bus en-route Otukpa-Onitsha

was attacked by suspected kidnappers who abducted some passengers in the vehicle.

He said, "A joint patrol team made up of the police, military and vigilante operating within the area, moved swiftly to the scene for a rescue operation.

"After an intense gun duel, the kidnappers abandoned the vehicle and took to their heels. Three victims were rescued and the said bus recovered.

"While chasing the kidnappers into a nearby forest suspected to be their hideout, they came across one Peter Ejembi, a member of the Benue State Volunteer Guard, who paid the supreme price with his life. His corpse has been recovered and deposited at Bethel morgue, Otukpa."

Anene said the state Commissioner of Police, Wale

Abass, had deployed additional teams for further operations in the area and enjoined

members of the community to provide necessary information for a successful operation.

33 children, 126 other Nigerians return from Libya

Olamide Famuwagun

NO fewer than 159 Nigerians stranded in Libya were on Tuesday received by officials of the National Emergency Management Agency at the Murtala Muhammad International Airport in Ikeja, Lagos State.

The Lagos Territorial Office Coordinator, Ibrahim Farinloye, confirmed the development in a statement.

Farinloye said the returnees included 126 adult males and females, 12 female children,



•The returnees

arrived at the airport late Tuesday.

"Upon profiling of the returnees, the number of female adults was 62; female children were 12 and five infant females.

"The number of adult males