

Four policemen, three traders killed in Ebonyi, Sokoto



• Sokoto CP, Usaini Gumel
**Edward Nnachi and
Animashahun Salman**

ONE cop has been confirmed killed during a gun duel that ensued between a team of policemen and some hoodlums at a checkpoint around the Presco Flyover, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the incident occurred around 8pm on Monday.

A source claimed that three security agents and one hoodlum were killed during the gun battle.

He said, "The shooting last night was not small! Even inside the house, we took cover. I heard they killed one of the gunmen making it four persons that died.

"The deceased policeman from Akwa Ibom State was married to an Edda woman with five kids."

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Chris Anyanwu, confirmed the incident.

Anyanwu said a policeman and a gunman were shot dead.

2 In a related development, gunmen have stormed Yarbulutu village in the Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State, killing six people, including three policemen.

A source confirmed that the gunmen, suspected to be bandits, attacked Yarbulutu village market on Sunday.

The source said the hoodlums, who came on bikes, opened fire on innocent traders in the weekly market, making people to run for their lives.

Policemen at a nearby checkpoint reportedly rushed to the scene and engaged the gunmen, which resulted in the killing of three cops.

The hoodlums were said to have set ablaze two operational vehicles of the policemen.

A resident of the village, Shayau Garba, expressed concern about the way gunmen were terrorising the area without resistance.

He said Sabon Birni and Isa LGAs in the eastern part of Sokoto had for long been held to ransom by bandits and kidnappers operating in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Sanusi Abubakar, who confirmed the incident, said the command had launched a manhunt for the assailants.