

Rivers gunmen open fire on police checkpoint, kill cop

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

The Rivers State Police Command was on Friday thrown into mourning following the killing of an operative on duty at a checkpoint along Marine Base in Port Harcourt on Friday morning.

It was gathered that gunmen in a salon car driving past the checkpoint opened fire on the policemen, but the bullet only hit one of the cops.

The gunmen immediately left the scene, leaving many in a pensive mood.

A source in the area who pleaded anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter said the miscreants were coming from one of the adjoining streets before meeting the checkpoint.

She said, "I was sitting at my shop this morning attending to customers. Next thing people started running. There was shooting, but I don't know who shot. Later, the police started gathering and we heard some bad boys killed a policeman."

She further said the incident caused pandemonium as commuters, motorists and traders scampered to safety.

The motive of the attack had yet to be established as of the time of filing this report.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident, saying operatives were on the trail of the fleeing suspects.

She however said the Commissioner of Police, Okon Effiong, had ordered for the immediate arrest of the gunmen.

Iringe-Koko, a Superintendents of Police stated, "Yes, the command is aware and we have launched a search for the dare-devil hoodlums to be apprehended and be made to face the law. All tactical units and police divisions have also been alerted to be on the lookout. Calm has returned to Marine Base."