

# Gunmen in military uniform kill two, abduct Rivers politician

18th April 2023



Rivers State CP, Okon Effiong

By Dennis Naku

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kidnappers, on Monday, shot the driver and an aide of a yet-to-be-identified politician dead during an attempt to kidnap the politician at the Obiri-Kwere axis of the Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered that the politician's driver was conveying him and his aide to a destination in the state when the kidnappers laid siege to his vehicle around Obiri-Kwere.

During the operation, the kidnappers shot the driver and the yet-to-be-identified aide to death, and thereafter, whisked the politician away.

The suspects were said to be fleeing with the politician in captivity when policemen, while attempting to intercept them, engaged them in an exchange of gunfire.

An eyewitness, who does not want his name mentioned for security reasons, said during the gun battle, the driver conveying the policemen in a police van lost control of the vehicle and it somersaulted.

"After they shot the policemen and demobilised them, the kidnappers fled the scene with the victim," the eyewitness said.

Another eyewitness said the kidnappers were dressed in military uniform, adding that they started shooting at the police van as it advanced towards their direction.

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He said, "We heard sporadic shooting along the road and a lot of people ran. Some of us who were around came out to verify what happened.

"We were told that men in military uniform in a white vehicle kidnapped somebody. While they were at it, another vehicle like a police van was approaching.

"These kidnappers started shooting them. You have two people in the van dead. Then there are two injured policemen, the driver and one other civilian. The injured policemen have been taken to the hospital."

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the shooting of the cops and the death of the two men.

Iringe-Koko said the state Commissioner of Police had ordered the deployment of a tactical unit to ensure the fleeing kidnappers were arrested and made to face justice, as well as the rescue of the abducted politician.

“No policeman was killed. Yes, they were injured. It was the driver and an aide to the man that was kidnapped that were fatally wounded. The policemen were shot and are receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital,” she said.