

# NSCDC vows clampdown as gunmen kill eight Edo officers

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Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Dr Ahmed Abubakar Audi.

Gift Habib And Adeyinka Adedipe

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps has vowed to hunt down the armed men who killed eight of its operatives in Edo State on Friday night.

The personnel, attached to the BUA Cement Factory in Okpella, Etsako East Local Government Area, were ambushed while escorting Chinese expatriates after a routine patrol around the company's premises.

In an official statement on Saturday, the NSCDC spokesperson, Afolabi Babawale, said the ambush lasted over three hours, leaving eight personnel dead, four injured, one expatriate missing, and four rescued.

“The operatives were deployed to provide adequate security and ensure the coverage of Chinese expatriates working at the company. Quite unfortunately, their convoy was ambushed during a routine patrol,” Babawale said.

He added that the Commandant General of the NSCDC, Prof Ahmed Audi, described the killings as “grievous” and assured that the corps would not relent in protecting lives and property despite the losses.

Babawale said the commandant general, who extended condolences to the families of the fallen officers, ordered the Edo Command to make arrangements for their burial with full honours, and also directed that the injured officers be given intensive care at the expense of the corps.

“The labour, commitment and patriotism displayed by the operatives will forever be remembered,” the statement noted.

He further commended sister security agencies for joining forces with the NSCDC in combing the forest to rescue the remaining expatriate and apprehend the attackers.

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Sunday PUNCH gathered that the Edo State Commandant, Agun Gbenga, visited the crime scene and the hospital where the injured operatives are being treated.

Security agencies have also launched a joint manhunt for the perpetrators in the surrounding forests.

The tragedy occurred less than a year after a similar attack on NSCDC personnel.

On November 18, 2024, an NSCDC monitoring team was ambushed by Boko Haram insurgents while inspecting National Grid installations in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State.

The team, comprising nine officers and 71 personnel from various commands, had just completed surveillance activities and was escorting stranded expatriates returning from a mining site near Dagwachi Village.

The convoy was attacked in the Farin-Kasa area of Chukun LGA, Kaduna State, by over 200 heavily armed insurgents firing from a hilltop.

Despite being heavily outnumbered, the NSCDC operatives fought back and reportedly neutralised over 50 insurgents during the firefight.

The ambush resulted in the deaths of four NSCDC officers, whil