

From OKEY SAMPSON,
Aba

Policemen from Ndiegoro Division in Aba, the commercial hub of Abia State, have shot dead two gunmen suspected to be kidnappers and rescued their victims.

It was gathered that one Ikechukwu Tony Chineduogo had travelled with his wife to their village and on their return on Sunday at about 9.15pm, while the woman was about opening the gate for her husband

to drive in, about five gunmen believed to be kidnappers emerged from nowhere and abducted the man.

Thereafter, the gang reportedly abducted another man identified as Okezie Usim, a sales representative with a flour mills company along the Enugu/Port Harcourt Expressway.

The abductors were said to have taken their victims to their hideout located at Iheorji in Aba South Local Government Area, from where they contacted the families of their

captives and demanded ransom that ran into several millions of naira.

However, before the ransom could be raised, the police at Ndiegoro, led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Crescent Mammah, acting on a tip-off, stormed the kidnappers' hideout.

On sighting the police team, the kidnappers were said to have opened fire swiftly and in the ensuing gun duel that lasted over 45 minutes, most of the hoodlums, who were mortally wounded, escaped into the

nearby bush.

However, some villagers, who later in the day went to their farm, saw one of the escaped kidnappers lying dead inside the bush with gun wounds and alerted the police.

Also yesterday, another of the kidnappers, who was wounded during the encounter with police, was found lying critically ill inside the bush and policemen from Ndiegor, who were invited, took him away.

On interrogation, the alleged hoodlum, who gave his name as Ifeanyi (surname withheld), made confessional statement where he implicated another suspect, Chinedu, who

ade Catholic Church in Aba. snatch priest's car