

CRIME WATCH TODAY

**3 kidnappers
killed in Imo**

• 2 victims rescued unhurt

BY NGOZI UWUJARE

Three suspected kidnappers have met their Waterloo in Imo State during a gun duel with the police.

According to *Crime Watch Today* investigation, the trio belonged to a five-man gang that had been terrorizing the state, particularly Akata Oru East Local Government Area.

The hoodlums had stormed Akata Oru and abducted two persons who were taken to Orlu East Ukpok Nnewi in Anambra State where the kidnappers had their hideout.

Commissioner of Police, Austin Ebakhabokun said the command received complaints about the abduction, which prompted him to alert the anti-kidnappers unit to fish out the suspects.

According to him, the operatives stormed Orlu East Ukpok. He said policemen tracked the kidnappers to their hideout in an uncompleted building.

"As soon as they sighted our men, they opened fire. The operatives responded. Three of the criminals fell to the superior fire-power of the operatives," he said.

The CP noted that the victims, Lazarus Ezukam, 62 years old and Lovena Nwaeze aged 75, all hail from Oru East LGA, were rescued unhurt. The kidnappers had demanded for a N530 million ransom from the two victims.