

Again, militants kill 3 policemen, 2 others in Lagos

• Abduct telecommunications workers

By Christopher Oji

Barely a week after militants struck in Isawo area of Ikorodu, Lagos State, killing an Army captain, four policemen and a civilian, another set of three policemen and two others were on Wednesday morning shot dead at Oko-Asagun village, in Ibeju Lekki Local Government Area of Lagos by suspected militants.

The gunmen also abducted five staff of telecommunication service companies in the operation.

Daily Sun gathered that the kidnappers, who stormed the place through the Ode-Omi creek, a border town between Lagos and Ogun states, shot dead the policemen attached to an estate developer in the area. After killing the policemen, the hoodlums also shot dead two community leaders who attempted to resist them.

A staff of a telecom company, Jude Ajagun, who narrated the abduction to Daily Sun, gave the names of those kidnapped as Tayo Jibade and Johnson Ezewudo, both staff of TYDACOM Limited, as

well as Tunji Moshood Akinbambi and Rauf Idowu, staff of Ericsson Limited.

Ajagun said: "We were working in a site being developed by one Onoside, who contracted us, when we started hearing sporadic gunshots. We scampered for safety. I hid behind some blocks and watched the unfolding event. I saw about six heavily armed men. Three of them wore masks. On sighting three policemen attached to an estate developer, they shot them dead. Two other civilians were also shot, while four others were injured."

A staff of Ericsson, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said they had been keeping vigil since yesterday, hoping to hear from the kidnappers.

As at the time of filing this report, the kidnappers were yet to establish contact with the company.

He said: "We are expecting a call from them to know what they wanted as ransom, but they have not established contact with us. We are appealing to the kidnappers to temper justice with mercy,

as those abducted are innocent of any crime. They should treat them with a human face, in the spirit of Easter."

A community leader said they were happy on seeing policemen guarding the newly developed estate, but with the latest incident the essence of sending the policemen has been defeated.

Said he: "We need the presence of joint security task force and not just a handful of policemen. We are living in fear. Some of us spent huge amounts of money to build houses, to develop the area, but we can't enjoy our sweat. Kidnapping has become the order of the day

in Ibeju Lekki. The government promised us security, but we are yet to see this.

"We are appealing to Governor Akinwunmi Ambode to wade into the matter and prevail on the state police boss and the military to provide adequate security.

"Our children are being dehumanised by the hoodlums. Our lifestyle has been affected badly. We suggest that the governor should request for air bombardment of the creeks."

Lagos State Police spokesman, Olarinde Famous-Cole, who confirmed the incident, noted that the policemen were taken by surprise.



7-month-old Katsina baby girl dies after defilement by step-father

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