

Security operatives kill 3 suspected kidnappers in Edo

From **Tony Osauzo,**
Benin

JOINT security team, comprising the police, army and vigilance groups, yesterday shot three kidnappers dead along the Benin-Ekpoma road, Edo State.

The incident occurred at Okhuo, in Uhumwode Local Government Area of the state.

The suspects had reportedly been taken over the busy highway Tuesday morning, but were driven into the for-

est by security operatives who engaged them in a gun battle.

Travellers plying the road were said to have been stranded for several hours while the security operatives engaged the hoodlums.

It was learnt that an unidentified young man who was driving a Lexus SUV was hit by stray bullets in his shoulder during the shooting.

Not deterred by the presence of the security personnel, the gunmen again laid siege to the highway yesterday morning to ambush trav-

ellers plying the road.

The security operatives again came to the rescue of the commuters as they engaged the hoodlums, who succumbed to the superior firepower of the security men.

Three of the suspected kidnappers were neutralized during the gun duel, while others escaped into the forest with gunshot injuries.

Spokesman of the Edo State Police Command, SP Kontongs Bello, who confirmed the incident, said, "It's

lice for a crime that he did not know about. The cleric had challenged the police to tell

true, sir, it happened yesterday (Tuesday) at 6:20am at Okhuo, in Ehor area, but the combined team of the police and the military foiled the attempt.

Nobody was kidnapped. One person, a young man driving Lexus 350, was hit in his car in his shoulder.

"Meanwhile, today (Wednesday), the hoodlums came out again and three of them were gunned down by the combined team of the police, military and vigilante. Edo must be safe," Bello said.

say the truth, people must be against you. My worry was that I was not briefed about the offence that I committed, but thank God that it was fellow brothers that were not happy with some of my preaching that protested. The police invitation was not necessary. They should have come straight to me to register their displeasure about my teachings, which affected their faith, and we would have resolved it at a roundtable.

"Whichever way, we have settled the matter amicably and there is no more problem. As a peaceful and truthful person, I will no longer go into the area they said affected their faith."

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline)