

Police kill 2 kidnappers, rescue 4 abducted victims in Imo

From Stanley Uzoaru, Owerri

TWO suspects among them a notorious armed robbery and kidnappers terrorising Imo State have been killed by the operatives of the Imo State Police Command's Anti-Kidnapping Unit.

The suspects according to a statement by the state police spokesperson, Henry Okoye, were gun down at Umuokanne in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of the state in a heavy gun duel with the police while trying to rescue their abductors.

Okoye also disclosed that two of the armed gang sustained bullet wounds during the melee.

He said: "The operation, which took place on January 4, 2025, began when a distress call was received at around 12:00 pm, reporting the abduction of three women and one man in Umuokanne, Ohaji Egbema Local Government Area.

"Acting swiftly on intelligence gathered, the Anti-Kidnaping Unit located the criminals' hideout. Upon arrival, a gunfight ensued between the police operatives and the kidnappers. During the operation, two suspects were neutralised. The four victims - Carolyn Didia (42), Ego Odu (48), Apollonia Ezekwe (40), and Godwin Ezekwe (37) - were successfully freed.

"In addition to rescuing the victims, the police recovered one AK-47 rifle, 21 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, and a magazine from the criminals. However, two of the rescued victims sustained gunshot wounds from the kidnappers' bullets during the confrontation. They were promptly taken to Oforola Health Centre, where they are now stable and recovering well," Okoye stated.