

Gunmen kill policeman, steal his gun

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A Mobile police sergeant was gunned down on Sunday afternoon in Aba, the commercial hub of Abia State.

Unconfirmed reports said the yet-to-be-identified officer was attached to a very popular hotel located off Azikiwe Road by East Street inside Aba metropolis.

The incident, which occurred about 2p.m., caused pandemonium in the area as passers-by and visitors to the hotel scampered for safety.

It was learnt that the four gunmen rode in a tri-cycle called Keke NAPEP in local parlance.

They reportedly overpowered the officer, killed him and went away with his AK47 rifle. Thereafter, they shot sporadically into the air.

The policeman did not die immediately as he was rushed to a nearby hospital for medical attention, but died later.

A colleague of the deceased had gone out when

the gunmen struck.

A witness said he was at the hotel to watch a Spanish Laliga match between Real Madrid and Girona said he and others were at the bar drinking and waiting for the match when they heard three gun shots.

He said: "People from outside started running while we took cover at the hotel bar. About three minutes later, we came out to find the body of the policeman on the floor.

"We ran towards him in a bid to assist other hotel boys to see if he could be revived. It was then that they told us that the gunmen came in a Keke NAPEP. They shut him three times and took his gun.

"There were two policemen on duty. The other one, we learnt, had gone out before the incident occurred. He came back to meet his colleague in a pool of blood."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Geoffrey Ogbonna, said he was yet to be briefed on the incident and promised to get back to our correspondent.

But a police source confirmed the death of the police officer.