

Kidnappers killed in shootout with police in Alibom

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UYO

2 Men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Akwa Ibom State Police Command, at the weekend demolished a kidnappers' hideout at Ekpri Nsukara village in Uyo Local Government Area.

The hideout, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Odiko MacDon, said was discovered last Friday when SARS operatives rescued a victim, Mr. Gassan Naser, and killed three of the hoodlums.

The victim is the site manager of Zenith Construction Company, working at Mbiaya in Uruan Local Government Area. He was abducted on April 30 by gunmen at the site while a policeman attached to him, Sergeant Mohammed Sarba, was shot dead.

MacDon said the police received approval from Governor Udom Emmanuel to demolish

the hideout same Friday that Naser was rescued.

He told journalists earlier that investigation revealed that the high profile kidnap gang was responsible for the kidnappings and killings of top politicians, including a monarch in the state.

It was learnt that the construction of the kidnappers' lodge, a bungalow nearing completion and standing alone in the Ekpri Nsukara bush, started two months ago. It was demolished about 7p.m. on Friday by a team SARS with a bulldozer hired from one of the construction firms in the state.

The Senior Special Assistant to the governor on Security Matters, Capt. Iniobong Ekong, and Nduesso Essien, a media aide to the governor, witnessed the demolition.

It was also learnt that the kidnappers had earlier demanded a ransom of N500 million. But both the PPRO and Naser said no ransom was paid.