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Victor Ogunje in Ado-Ekiti

There was panic at a section of Ikere-Ekiti, the second largest town in Ekiti State on Saturday as some unknown gunmen killed a middle aged vigilante working with a company in the town.

It was reliably gathered that the incident occurred at night at a quarry located along Ikere-Iju-Akure road, when the gun-wielding bandits allegedly invaded the firm to steal some valuables.

nave escaped from the scene, said the assailants came at the dead of the night.

He said: "The alleged robbers shot the leader of the team from the window while the other one was tied with rope.

"Electric cables and other facilities in the quarry were carted away by the suspected robbers."

When contacted the Commandant of the Vigilante Group in Ekiti State, Mr. Akin Olounloni, confirmed the incident, but claimed that the vigilante was killed by some suspected cultists.

Olounloni explained that "the deceased had earlier called him to report that some cultists threatened to kill him after he reprimanded them."

"When he called me, I told him to report the case to the police in Ikere, he went there, the boys were invited and the issue was settled but only for me to receive a call that the man was killed overnight," he added.

According to him, the suspected cultists have been arrested and presently with the State Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

The Public Relations Officer, Ekiti State Police Command, Mr. Sunday Abutu, could not be reached for comment, as his mobile phone number was switched off.

But SARS' Commander in Ekiti State, Mr. Marcus Ogundola, confirmed that three suspects have been arrested in connection with the crime.

"We have arrested three suspects but investigation is still ongoing. We cannot say for now whether they were the real perpetrators, but we are thoroughly digging into the killing," he said.