

Inspector dies, as gunmen attack Police patrol van

By Paul Olayemi

A Police inspector attached to the Sapele Divisional Police Station in Sapele, Delta State, has been killed after gunmen attacked a Police patrol van at the Benin-Sapele Bypass.

It was gathered that the incident took place on Saturday night.

The Inspector, identified as Pascal, was said to have been killed after the Police vehicle they were travelling in came under heavy attack from gunmen, injuring two others including the Sapele DPO's wife, Mrs Ebong, who was in the entourage.

According to a source at the Sapele Police Station, "the DPO and his wife were returning from Asaba, when the car they were travelling in suddenly developed fault along the Benin Bypass.

"As the night was fast approaching and efforts to get another car to continue the journey yielded no positive result, one of his men on patrol called the DPO and he told them he was stranded at the Benin Bypass.

"The patrol team offered to come and rescue the situation, even when he insisted he would be fine with his wife. They were returning with the patrol van when suddenly they came under attack from gunmen.

"Pascal would have lived, but the hospitals were on strike and the private clinics they rushed him to had no doctors on duty."

The injured policeman and the DPO's wife are said to be receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital, while the body of Inspector Pascal had been deposited at a morgue in town.

Delta State Police spokesman, Andrew Anieamaka, could not confirm the attack, as he promised to get back to Vanguard, which he had not done at press time.

However, a source at the Sapele Area Command, confirmed the attack, saying "everybody is in a sad mood now. Please, I can't talk. Pascal was a nice man, who was always full of jokes, now he is gone."