

supremacy of the non-state actors' dominance, which usually

Ogunlape, in his speech, titled: *A Breath of Fresh Air*,

former vice-chancellor, Oyewusi Ibidapo-Obe, who is

one of the many issues that pervaded the university."

1 killed, as Police, OPC, others rescue kidnap victims in Osun

By Shina Abubakar

O SOGBO—THE Osun Police Command, yesterday, confirmed the rescue of the four kidnapped victims, abducted by gunmen in the state, Monday.

Some unknown gunmen had abducted the travellers at Odo-Osun and Esa-Odo in Obokun Local Government Area of the state and took them into the forest.

It was gathered that a combined team of police, local hunters, Oodua Peoples Congress, OPC, members and Kiriji defenders had intensified efforts to rescue the travellers, without leaving the Ere

forest, where the victims were kept.

A security source informed *Vanguard* that the rescue team engaged the Fulani gunmen in a gun duel for about an hour, leading to the death of an OPC member.

The kidnappers, numbering about six, wielded four AK47 and two pump action rifles.

It was gathered that one of the abducted victims also sustained gunshot injuries, while three of the gunmen escaped with gunshot wounds.

The victims, all male, were rescued around 4:30 pm.

Coordinator of Hunters Group of Nigeria, HGN, in Osun State, Nurein Hammed, said hunters,

in conjunction with others, engaged the gunmen inside Ere forest, where many of the gunmen also sustained various degrees of injury.

Also, the Director-General of the Kiriji Heritage Defenders, Dr Ademola Ekundayo, who confirmed the release, said: "The kidnappers had, Monday, abducted two travellers at Odo-Osun area and, while attempting to move away from the area, stopped another vehicle at Esa-Odo and took four persons into the forest.

"Kiriji volunteers, OPC members, local hunters and police have been on the gunmen trail since Monday without leaving the forest so that they will not slip

away."

Police confirm release

Confirming the development, the Police Commissioner, Olawale Olokode said: "We have rescued four of the six victims, but unfortunately we have a casualty, while the gunmen had many injured victims. The operatives have vowed to remain in the forest to rescue two other victims in the custody of the kidnappers.

"The Ere forest has been cordoned off by our operatives, both conventional and local, including hunters and OPC, to arrest the suspects and ensure that such incident doesn't happen again in the area."