

Edo Police kill 2 kidnappers, recover arms, ammunition

By Gabriel Enogholase

BENIN—THE Police in Edo State have announced the killing of two suspected kidnappers operating along Egba axis of the Benin-Auchi dual carriageway.

Deputy Public Relations Officer, Edo State Command, Jennifer Iwegbu, yesterday, revealed that the feat was made possible by the Divisional Police Headquarters at Egba in Uhunmwonde Local Government Area of Edo State, who acted on information it received and arrested the two suspects.

She said: "Following credible information during the police routine night patrol, the Divisional Police Officer led his police operatives to a kidnappers' hideout at Oguweka forest, off Benin-Auchi expressway.

"In the operation, two suspects, who identified themselves as Mohammed Umar, alias Smallie Bokolo, 23yrs and Bashir Saidu, 30yrs, were arrested. They also led the police operatives to their operational camp, which is inside the forest in the same community.

"The following items were recovered from the suspects: one AK-49 rifle with 34 rounds of 9.9MM ammunition; two single barrel guns with five live cartridges and one blue saloon Golf car with number plate, EDO UBJ490AA, from another location within the Benin metropolis.

"The suspects volunteered to lead operatives to another of their hideout and operational camp at Powerline by Urokhuesa community, off Benin-Auchi road at about 0430hrs of the same date but were met by aggressive gunfire from the gang members at the camp, which led to a gun battle with the police operatives. The suspects were fatally injured and were confirmed dead."

Meanwhile, she disclosed that an intensive bush combing of the area was ongoing for possible neutralisation or arrest of other fleeing gang members.