

3 Gunmen kill one, abduct 7 travellers on Sagamu-Ijebu-Ode expressway

By James Ogunnaike

ABEOKUTA—GUNMEN suspected to be kidnappers have killed a yet-to-be-identified traveller and abducted seven others on the Sagamu-Ijebu-Ode expressway in Ogun State.

Vanguard reliably gathered that the gunmen, numbering about seven, armed with AK-47 rifles, struck around 6pm on Friday, between Ilisan, Ceplast industry and Iperu junction axis of the expressway.

A viral audio from one of the victims of the tragic incident, who was apparently a driver heading to Lagos, detailed how the hoodlums stopped their vehicles with sporadic shooting and later marched them into the bush.

He said: "The incident happened around past five in the evening. They were armed to the teeth with AK-47 rifles, shooting sporadically. They even killed one person who was inside a Lexus car. They marched about seven of us into the bush and when I saw that they were speaking Hausa, I started speaking Hausa to them, begging them not to kill me. They asked if I was a northerner but I said no, but I have once lived in Kebbi and Sokoto."

Confirming the incident, yesterday, spokesperson of the Ogun State Police Command, SP Omolola Odutola, said that the police cannot ascertain the number of persons abducted by the gunmen.

She noted that the gun-wielding hoodlums killed one of the travelers yet to be identified.

Odutola said: "The incident which happened on May 3, around 6:55pm was incidented as a case of armed robbery, murder and kidnapping."

"We have information that about seven people whom we don't know with AK-47 suddenly blocked the Benin-Sagamu expressway."

"The DFO of Ilisan when he got to the scene of the incident, saw two vehicles pierced with bullets; a Lexus jeep 300 with registration number LND 640 DY."