

Kidnappers kill abducted Edo doctor's brother

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| By Adeyinka Adedipe

Gunmen suspected to be kidnappers have killed the younger of two brothers abducted on January 2 at their residence along City Pride Road, Igbira Camp, Auchi, Edo North.

The father of the deceased, Tahir Momoh, confirmed to *PUNCH Metro* on Monday that his son, Abu Momoh, had been killed.

He added that the body was discovered on Monday morning and buried the same day.

“It is true that he was killed. He is the younger of the two brothers and he has been buried.

“The elder brother is still with the kidnappers. This is a very sad day for us and we hope that his elder will be released to us,” he said.

In a short video made available to *PUNCH Metro* from the platform of the deceased's community, Abu Momoh was seen being killed by his abductors near Orley River, down City Pride Road, Igbira Camp.

A source in the community, who preferred not to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter, said the victim might have attempted to escape before he was shot.

“I was told that he attempted an escape and he was shot by the kidnappers,” the source said.

The elder brother, Ibrahim, a medical doctor currently undergoing his housemanship at Edo State Teaching Hospital, Auchi, remains in the kidnappers' custody.

Both brothers, PUNCH Metro reported, were abducted while trying to enter their compound and were taken into the bush.

A resident who gave his name as Abdul urged the police to intensify operations in Igbira Camp. He said that many incidents in the area go unreported.

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“I think it’s time the police beam a searchlight on the Igbira community in Auchi as the number of kidnapping around that area is alarming. The problem is these boys don’t want to work but are looking for easy money.

“The earlier their criminal activities are halted, the better for Auchi and other communities around that area.

“The government should also take action so that the people can see that they are important,” he said.

PUNCH Metro had reported that the gunmen initially demanded N200m ransom for the release of the brothers on Sunday.

Tahir Momoh said the kidnappers contacted the family to demand the amount.

After negotiations, our correspondent learnt that the ransom was reduced to N100m, with hopes of further reductions.

“They have been in touch with us since they were kidnapped. They asked for N200m but we were able to negotiate N100m.

“We are still hoping that further discussion will lead to reduction of the ransom demanded. It’s a trying period for the family but I pray that they would come back home safely,” he said.

Confirming the incident, the Edo State Police Public Relations Officer, Eno Ikoedem, said the deceased was found dead in the bush by the police during bush combing.

She added that the deceased’s family identified him as the younger brother of the medical doctor, who was kidnapped together.

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