

# Gunmen kill Benue ex-LG chair, 12 others

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File photo: Masked gunmen

By John Charles

Gunmen on Thursday night shot dead a former Caretaker Chairman of Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State, Udeh Ijachi.

An eyewitness who spoke with our correspondent on condition of anonymity on Friday said the incident occurred in front of the Okabido Hotel in Otukpo, where he was lodging.

According to the eyewitness, the gunmen opened fire on the deceased before fleeing the scene.

The deceased's younger brother, Ejeh Ijachi, was killed in a similar circumstance in September 2025.

The deceased had reportedly survived several assassination attempts over the years, following a 2017 crisis which left eight people dead, including former PDP state chairman, Maj Lawrence Ugboh (retd).

Confirming the incident, the LG Chairman, Maxwell Ogiri said, "Yes, I got the news. It was in the evening yesterday (Thursday), he was in the premises of the hotel where he lodged, he stepped down from his room, and the assassins stepped down at close range and began to shoot at him, and left immediately.

"I wouldn't know if he had issues with anybody but I know that a similar incident happened to his immediate younger brother, Ejeh Ijachi, last year September.

"The brazen manner in which he was killed was shocking, painful and unacceptable. That is the position of the council. We pray and urge the security agencies to unravel the matter so that a similar incident does not occur."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Udeme Edet said, “I will get back to you.”