

### **Thugs Kill Police Officer, Shoot Wife Of PDP Chieftain**

A group of suspected political thugs numbering over twenty (20) armed with Ak47 assault rifles and machetes scaled the fence of Chief John Oguma, a Chieftain of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Delta State in order to gain entrance into the premises. The thugs on gaining access into Oguma's house at Ovwor in the Ughelli North Local Government Area of the State, shot dead a police orderly attached to Oguma.

When the invading squad could not locate Chief John Oguma, their target, they shot his wife in the leg and later destroyed some cars Parked in the sprawling compound. Cars destroyed include a Toyota Land Cruiser Sport Utility Van (SUV) and other cars in the place. When CEHRD monitor visited the scene few days after, cars, walls and glasses riddled with several bullet shots and deep machete cuts were seen all over the compound.

Further investigations indicate that Chief Oguma is a very close friend of Chief James Ibori, the executive Governor of Delta State, and that Oguma's support for a particular gubernatorial candidate, Mr. Emmanuel Agwuriavwodo, the Managing director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), who is to contest for Delta State governorship position in 2007, must have angered other contestants. Such pattern of violence is sweeping through the Niger Delta and other places in Nigeria as 2007 elections draw closer.