

# Catholic priest killed

KENNETH OFOMA, Abakaliki

AS the nation mourns the assassination of Chief Funso Williams by yet to be identified assailants, Ebonyi State was yesterday thrown into mourning following the murder of a Catholic priest, Rev. Chidi Okorie by unknown persons.

Rev. Okorie, a priest of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Afikpo, according to reports was attacked in the night with multiple stabs

and machete cuts inflicted on him.

He was later taken to a nearby hospital where he died.

The killers, suspected to be armed robbers were said to have stolen money and other valuables.

Though details concerning his murder were still sketchy as at the time of filing this report, most of his colleagues who confirmed the incident could not hold back tears as they simply said, "he's dead".

While some of them could only mutter "this is not time to talk", others who managed to speak described the incident as shocking and unbelievable.

One of them, Rev. Daniel Agara of St. Theresa's Cathedral, Abakaliki said he was dumbfounded by the sad news, adding that Rev. Okorie was a promising young priest who was ordained in June 2004.

The deceased who hails

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Medical Laboratory Scientist, Ms. S.O. Kazeem, Desk Officer, Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion Mr. Soji Ayelari and Chief Medical Laboratory Scientist Mr. O.A. Adeniyi.

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from Urunebo community in Njikoka Local Government Area of Anambra State was aged 31.

When contacted, the Police Public Relation Officer, Godwin Wekwa, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, said he was yet to be furnished with the details of the incident as he had been on a casual leave.