

Murder: Royal father's son, 3 others arrested

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THE son of a first class traditional ruler, Omogha I, the Odio-Ologbo of Oleh Kingdom in Isoko South local government area of Delta State has been apprehended by the State Police Command, Asaba over the alleged murder of a political chieftain in the area.

The suspects, Uzezi Anthony and three others whose identities were being withheld by the police as at press time, were arrested at different locations following a tip-off.

They were said to have attempted to escape from the area after the alleged crime when nemesis caught-up with them.

They are now being detained by the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Asaba, Delta State Capital.

The victim, Isaac Obama (a.k.a Ibori), former Special Assistant to the one-time commissioner of Sports under Chief James Onanefe Ibori's administration, had, on the fateful day, gone to a drinking spot to refresh in the company of some friends when he received a call that his attention was needed at home. But unknown to him, his killers had laid ambush for him.

Immediately he arrived home to open his door, what followed was a chilly replay of the most savage

gang murder in recent Oleh history as they pumped hot lead into him at point-blank range. The politician was said to have slumped and died instantly, while the killers escaped, giggling in triumph.

The arrest and detention of the suspects were, however, said to have followed an earlier disagreement with the victim when he attempted to stop them from tempering with the electric transformer located in the area. The suspects were allegedly searching the transformer for mercury with which to make fast money when they were accosted by Obama, leading to a heated argument between him and the suspects.

Neighbours who were in their various rooms on the day of the incident confirmed that the gunmen engaged the victim in an argument which ended "we promised to deal with you for being an agent, enemy of progress and a selfish politician who has acquired so much within so short a time."

The news of his killing, which spread like wide-fire, led to a major provocation among the youths of the once peaceful area.

The palace of the royal father of the kingdom became the major target as it was completely

razed by the rampaging youths following alleged involvement of one of his sons.

One of the first callers to the home of the deceased included the chairman of the local government, who is also the chairman of All Local Government Councils of Nigeria (ALGON) Delta State Chapter, Askia Ogieh, who described the incident as very unfortunate, shocking and most painful.

He saw the victim as a very loyal and committed party member, whose sudden death will create a vacuum in the party, particularly in the local government area.

Others were top politicians in the state and a delegation of the governor of Delta State, Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan, led by the commissioner of Power and Energy, Comrade Ovuozourie Macaulay, who is also an indigene.

The Delta State police image maker ASP Charles Muka, while confirming the incident, appealed to members of the public to volunteer information about suspected criminals in their midst.

But a member of the deceased family, Mr. Steven Ejiro, while taking stock of events, expressed fears that the killers of Obama may also enjoy the cold comfort reminiscent of past terror gangs.