



CRASH... An accident scene on Iganmu Bridge in Lagos yesterday. PHOTO: NAN

DENNIS NAKU,
Port Harcourt

Kidnappers de from lawyer to

UNKNOWN gunmen who kidnapped Mrs. Olanrewaju Adedipe, wife of a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) at her residence at Woshikem Street in Rumuodomaya, on the outskirt of Port Harcourt, are demanding N100million ransom before she could be released.

The victim's husband, a prominent lawyer, Ifedayo Adedipe, SAN, who spoke to *Daily Champion* on telephone yesterday, expressed worry over the whereabouts of his wife and her state of health.

Adedipe said the government neither paid nor encouraged payment of ransom, adding that he was impressed with the way the Rivers State Government and security agencies were handling the situation.

"Well, they (the kidnappers) have established contact with us, they are demanding N100million). You know the government does not encourage ransom payment. If I have N100million, will I still be practising law?"

"These are misguided youths. This country is in trouble. I just hope they (the kidnappers) will release her soon and unhurt," Adedipe said in an emotion-laden voice, even as he appealed to the kidnappers to free her unconditionally.

He expressed gratitude to the Rivers State Government, the Police and other security operatives for the efforts they have put in so as to ensure that

his wife breathe the air of freedom soon.

Adedipe, who is the lead counsel to Governor

Chibuike Amaechi in the reconstituted Rivers State Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Port Harcourt,

Rivers State capital, said he was still wondering why his wife was abducted.

It would be recalled

Kidnapped PDP chieftain found dead in Kogi

TIMOTHY AJIBOYE, Lokoja

A CHIEFTAIN of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Prince Raphael Aliyu Olorunpomi, who was

kidnapped in Kabba few days ago, has been found dead in a bush along Okehi-Kabba road in Okehi local government area of Kogi State.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Kogi

Demolition of structures: Ekiti phone dealers, engineers appeal to Fayemi

VICTOR OGUNJE, Ado Ekiti

MOBILE phone dealers and engineers in Ekiti State yesterday urged Sate Governor Kayode Fayemi to allocate another land for them after being dislodged from the popular Fayose Market in Ado-Ekiti.

The dealers and engineers, under the aegis of Ekiti State Mobile Phone Engineers and Ekiti State Mobile Phone Dealers, said yesterday in Ado-Ekiti that the move to relocate them from their trading spot in the market was having an adverse effects on their businesses.

Speaking on their behalf, Messrs Deji Obaidu and Ojurongbe Folorunso, said business transaction had been crippled since government dismantled their structures in the market a couple of weeks

ago. Obaidu said the victims had planned to march to the House of Assembly to register their protest, but armed policemen came in company with some officials of the state government to appeal to them.

He said what the traders want the state government to do for them is to give them a befitting alternate spot to conduct their business.

He described as unacceptable, the government's plan to relocate them to the side of the canal in the market, as their wares and personal safety would not be guaranteed.

Obaidu said each of the nearly 400 members is to pay N5,000 to the Ministry of Lands, while Ado Local Government, the Ministry of Commerce, among others would still be collecting rates and levies from them.

State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Ile Simon, and made available to newsmen in Lokoja, the state capital, stated that crack detectives from the command are investigating matter in order to fish out those behind the deadly act.

However, sources informed our correspondent that the victim may have been killed for defiling the tradition of the land by opening for business his beer parlour during the Oro Festival in Kabba which normally lasts for three days.

The police authority stated that the motive of kidnapping the victim was not to kill him but the identification of one of the suspects by the victim resulted to being shot on the head.

His body was discovered on Thursday morning along Okehi Kabba road.

It would be recalled that on the 16th of this month, the victim was kidnapped at his beer parlour and taken away in his Toyota Camry Car to an unknown destination.

Meanwhile, our correspondent gathered that no fewer than five suspects have been arrested by the Kogi State Police Command over the killing.