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## Remains of AT Abdulkadir expected tomorrow

### Gunmen kill ex-Nigerian diplomat

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WRITTEN BY MUHAMMAD BELLO, PORT HARCOURT

MONDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2009 21:51

Nigeria's former Ambassador to Gabon and Ukraine, Mr Ignatius Hekaire Ajuru, who is also the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Rivers State College of Education was on Sunday shot dead by unknown gunmen at Obehi in Abia State.

**R**ivers State Police spokesperson, Rita Inoma Abbey, confirmed that the state command got information about the incident but that she was not in a position to comment on it.

Her Abia State counterpart refused to respond to questions by our correspondent when he was contacted on telephone. He said he was on the highway driving and could not hear what was being asked of him.

Meanwhile, Rivers State Governor Rotimi Amaechi has charged the police to intensify effort on crime prevention, saying the killing of the Ambassador was lamentable. In a statement signed by the state Commissioner for Information Ibim Seminari, the governor appealed to the police, especially the Abia State Police Command, to intensify efforts in combating crime.

The governor said about four prominent Rivers indigenes had been killed in Obehi recently. He said the Rivers State Police Command was willing to partner with the Abia State Command to ensure safety in Obehi, especially during the festive period.

The governor who lamented the loss of lives of several innocent Nigerians, especially Rivers indigenes, expressed regret that in recent times no less than four prominent Rivers indigenes had been killed at the area where Mr Ajuru was killed.

The governor, whose information commissioner, Ibim Seminari, issued a press release disclosing the willingness of the Rivers State police command to partner with the Abia State command to ensure that Obehi, a crime hotspot, is safe, said there was no point in making inflammatory statements over the slaying of the diplomat. Mrs Seminari, whose Special Assistant answered her telephone on her behalf, said the Rivers State government was in touch with its Abia counterpart on how to beef up security in the area.

Late Mr Ajuru was born March 25, 1944 in Isiokpo, Ikwere Local Government Area of Rivers State. Educated in Nigeria and England, he was the Marketing Manager, Eastern Bulkeen Limited. He was also the Chairman of the Rivers State Newspaper Corporation, Port Harcourt, publishers of the Nigerian Tide. Between 1993 and 1994, he was the Chairman of the defunct National Republican Convention, NRC. A founding member of the PDP, Ajuru was a governorship aspirant in Rivers State in 1999. He had served as Nigeria's ambassador to Gabon from 1999 to 2003. He is a member, International Personnel Academy, the Nigerian Institute of Management and Chartered Institute of Marketing.

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