

Nasarawa priest killed heading for kids' mass

Hir Joseph, Lafia

A priest, Rev. Fr. Clement Tarwough, was shot dead, yesterday, by unidentified gunmen at a bridge between Wamba and Akwanga in Nasarawa State. Officials at the diocese in Lafia confirmed the incident, and told Weekly Trust that the deceased who is a priest at St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Wamba, was heading to Akwanga from his parish to conduct a mass for children at St. Patrick Catholic Church, when he was shot at the bridge across Buku River.

But the police lost track of the gunmen, when they responded to a distress call by road users, according to the state Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, ACP Kwajima Yahy who spoke to Weekly Trust. He said the report he received from the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in Akwanga, said the priest was shot in the chest during the operation that happened between 10 and 11am. "He was alone in the car", he said, giving the details of the vehicle as Peugeot 504 with registration number AD998WMB. The ACP said the report he received showed that between six and eight gunmen carried out the operation. "But before our men could arrive there, the gunmen had escaped through the bush," he said.

The divisional Police Officer (DPO) in Akwanga, DSP Peter Damon told Weekly Trust that investigation into the incident was still on at about 5:30 when he spoke to this reporter.