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How soldiers, others kidnapped, killed man in Imo

By Jude Aguguo Owuamanam, Owerri | May 15, 2020 3:37 AM



The northern community in Imo State was thrown into mourning on Sunday, May 3, when one of their members, Michael Ishaya, was allegedly kidnapped and killed by people masquerading as members of the state task force on enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions.

It was gathered that the men, who wore military and Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) uniforms, had stopped Ishaya, popularly called Leo, who hailed from Bauchi State, along Orji roundabout flyover after he had dropped a friend by Rochas Foundation College of Africa (ROFOCA) about 5.30pm on Saturday and taken him away.

Ishaya was said to have obeyed the men, thinking they were genuine officers of the law. But unknown to him, they were kidnappers.

It was further gathered that after 24 hours and his friends did not hear from him, they raised an alarm and organised a search party. They got a clue of his whereabouts from another victim of the kidnappers who they had picked earlier but paid ransom.

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The victim had transferred N50,000 to the account of the kidnappers and after regaining his freedom had called some friends he felt knew Ishaya.

After lodging a complaint at the Imo State police headquarters, the case was transferred to the anti-robbery squad under the command.

A police source told our correspondent that investigation revealed that the suspects had killed Ishaya somewhere in Oba in Anambra State and fled to Makurdi, Benue State, with his properties which included his car, iPhone, clothes and an Apple wristwatch. They also withdrew all the money in his account.

However the police, using some details provided by the earlier victim, were able to establish the identity of one of the kidnappers, who turned out to be a serving soldier.

It was gathered that on interrogation, he led the police to two of his other gang members. It was also established that one of them was dismissed from the army in 2018.

The suspects confessed to abducting Ishaya and thereafter took the police to where they buried his remains.

Police Public Relations Officer SP Orlando Ikeokwu told our correspondent that all those involved in the incident have been arrested.

He cautioned the public against arriving at a conclusion until the investigations was completed.

“We have arrested all those involved in the matter and investigation is on to determine their various roles in the incident,” he said.

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