

# Kidnapped Edo Catholic priest, hunter killed

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

**The kidnapped Catholic priest, Christopher Odia, has been found dead by a search party in Ikabigbo, a community in Etsako West Local Government of Edo State.**

The search party comprised of hunters and vigilante members in collaboration with security

agents, however, arrested two of the kidnappers after about 10 hours of bush combing.

A hunter, Nurudeen Umosor, was shot by the kidnappers during the bush combing and died on the spot.

Two other members of the search party, Sadiku Yakubu and Bernard Tenabe were also shot by the kidnappers but

were rushed to the hospital for treatment.

The priest was kidnapped on Sunday by gunmen from his residence at about 6am while preparing to go to the Church for the service.

The community's traditional ruler, Braimah Alegeh, confirmed the death of the two men.

The late Umosor has been buried according to Islamic rites in the community.

When contacted, the police spokesperson in Edo State, Chidi Nwabuzor, promised to get back to our correspondent but had yet to do so as of the time of filing this report.

However, the Director of Social Communications,

Catholic Diocese of Auchi, Rev. Fr. Peter Egielewa, confirmed the killing of the priest in a statement made available to journalists in Benin.

Until his death, Fr Odia was the Administrator of St Michael Catholic Church, Ikabigbo and also the Principal of St. Philip Catholic Secondary School, Jattu.

Lagos Muslim