

Gunmen kill teacher in Benue

*From Simeon Nwakaudu,
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TRAGEDY struck at the weekend in Katsina Ala town of Benue State, when unknown gunmen numbering over 20 stormed the residence of Mr Julius Uga, a teacher at the town's College of Education and killed him in the presence of his family five days after he declared to contest the chairmanship of his council.

The Guardian learnt that the heavily armed gunmen suspected to be political assassins arrived at the residence of the deceased teacher by 2 a.m last Friday and forcefully broke into his home.

Upon gaining entrance into the teacher's home, the assailants accosted members of his family and sought to know his whereabouts, since they did not immediately see him.

According to the teacher's son, Teryila Uga, his father had taken refuge in the ceiling of their building when he sensed danger, but was forced to give his position away after the assailants threatened to exterminate his family.

Uga said as soon as his father disclosed that he was hiding in the ceiling, the assailants sprayed bullets to the roof of their home, until the place became quiet.

He added that the gunmen set the building ablaze before storming out in a hail of bullets that scared away other residents of the area.

He told *The Guardian* that his father declared for the chairmanship of Katsina Ala last week, after a meeting with his community elders who had invited him for consultation.

Attempts to reach the Benue State Police spokesman, Mr Adeganya Jinadu did not yield results as his phone was switched off.

But when *The Guardian* visited Katsina Ala, youths in the area were protesting against the killing of the teacher, said to be their choice for the chairmanship of the council. The youths marched through the major streets of the town, denouncing the political leaders of the area.