

# Son shoots oil executive to death

**T**RAGEDY at the weekend befell the board of Orient Petroleum Resources Limited in Awka, the Anambra State capital, as two of its members were attacked and shot in separate incidents.

The Managing Director, Mr. Emeka Nwawka, was allegedly waylaid and shot by unknown gunmen on his way to his Nibo village home town in the Awka South Local Council of the state.

Nwawka, however, did not die, but was wounded. He is said to be currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

His co-director on the board, Mrs. Uzor Oby-Okoli, was however not so fortunate. She was allegedly shot dead by one of her sons.

Oby-Okoli's body has been deposited in an undisclosed mortuary in Awka.

Both victims are said to be cousins though no link has been established in the two shooting incidents.

Oby-Okoli, who was also chairman, board of directors of the Nigerian Mineral Waters Ltd, served as a Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development and later as a Special Adviser on Energy and Petroleum in the administration of former Governor Chinwoke Mbadinuju.

According to police and family sources, one of her sons who returned recently from his London base went out late Sunday in his mother's Mercedes Benz 500 SEL car and returned later at about 2:00 a.m. with some of his acquaintances, who reportedly stayed inside the vehicle without being noticed because the glasses were tinted.

A family source told jour-

*From Chuks Collins and Uzoma Nzeagwu, Awka.*

nalists at the family's imposing Awka mansion that the boy and his group later sneaked into her room upstairs and shot her several times, leaving her gasping in a pool of her own blood.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of state CID, Mohammed Musa Katsina, confirmed the incidents.

According to him, the police were ushered to the actual scene by one of the late woman's sons after receiving a signal from one of the local divisions on the incidents.

"I saw her in a stiff condition and in a pool of her own blood. So, we conducted step by step observation with the view to establishing the identity of the attackers," he added.

According to him, "the clues gathered led us to classify one of the woman's sons as the principal suspect." He also pointed out that the suspect absconded immediately after committing the act.

The police chief confirmed that the suspect has, however, since been arrested in Lagos while trying to flee to London and that full investigations have commenced.

Chief Anselm Oby-Okoli, the husband of the deceased, could not be reached for comments as he was said to have left for Lagos over the incident.

He is the chief executive of Bilante Construction Ltd and Bilwadams Ltd, the company first contracted by the Federal Government to dualise the Ontisha-Benin federal highway.