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Wednesday, March 19, 2008

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# Witness in Rivers monarch's trial feared killed

*From Kelvin Ebiri, Port Harcourt*

ONE of the principal prosecution witnesses, Mr. Gabriel Obom, in the on-going trial of the Amayanabo of Konuju, Captain Neimi Oputibeya X Iyalla, (rtd) has been feared murdered by unknown gunmen at his Okrika residence in Rivers State.

The Guardian gathered yesterday that Obom was murdered in the presence of his wife and mother-in-law.

He was said to have been threatened several times by some unknown persons who accused him of aiding the Joint Task Force (JTF) during the raid on the house of the monarch and the camp of the leader of the Niger Delta Vigilance Movement, Ateke Tom at Okochiri.

The murdered man was also said to have provided information to the security agencies during the recent raid that resulted in the discovery of cache of arms and ammunition behind the monarch's residence last week.

When contacted on the telephone, the spokesman of the JTF, Lt.-Col. Sagir Musa, confirmed the death of Obom to The Guardian yesterday.

"I heard he was murdered but cannot really narrate how he was killed. But it is true that he was murdered," Musa said.

The Konuju monarch alongside Chief Stephen Opungiriko and Mr. Nathan Alabo have been in detention since December 21, 2007 following his

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arraignment in court for having links with Ateke and promoting militancy in the Niger Delta.

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