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Suspected kidnappers kill two brothers in Akwa Ibom

From Inem Akpan-Nsoh, Uyo

THE Okon Ekpenyong Family of Ewet Offot village, Akwa Ibom was at the weekend thrown into mourning as two of its sons who are blood brothers - Emmanuel, 53 and Matthias, 47 - were killed by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers.

The brother of the deceased, Fabian Ekpenyong, told The Guardian that the two victims were doing their legitimate business at a sand beach along Nnwaniba, where they were accosted by their assailants who shot Matthias on the spot and bundled Emmanuel into their waiting Audi 80 car in which they sped off.

Ekpenyong added that while sympathisers throng their compound to confirm the incident, news got to the family that Emmanuel had attempted to escape from the boot of the Audi 80 car but was shot dead by the bandit who then dropped his remains and sped away.

Confirming the incidents, the state Commissioner of Police, Walter Rugbere, who visited the scene, said investigation on the killings was still ongoing.

He assured that the police would stop at nothing to get to the root of the matter.

Speaking on the rising rate of kidnapping in the state, the immediate past Moderator of Akwa Synod of The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Rev. Augustus Oku, said the criminals might have turned to abduction because their hitherto favourite crime, night bank robbery, had become almost impossible to pull off due to better security arrangements at the banks.

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