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Thursday, July 16, 2009

Gunmen kill bank manager in Uyo

- Police deny Catholic bishop's kidnap
From Inem Akpan-Nsoh (Uyo) , Charles Ogugbuaja (Owerri) and Gordi Udeajah(Umuahia)

GUNMEN killed the manager of Ecobank, Mr. Sampson Edet in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital on Tuesday. Edet who was the branch manager of the bank along Wellington Bassey Way was killed in his residence along Ikot Ekpene road in the state capital.

Speaking with reporters, a source in Edet's neighbourhood said he heard gunshots around the house of the deceased, few minutes after his return from work.

The source said that the banker who was aged 40 and came from Ibesikpo Asutan Council Area of the state was killed around 9 p.m.

Other sources told The Guardian that they suspected assassination because the gunmen did not pick any item from Edet's house.

"The rate at which these killings are going on is surprising in spite of government's security operatives everywhere. If it is not kidnapping, it is murder", they said.

Gunmen murdered two brothers along Nwaniba beach in June this year.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Gabriel Ngban, said he was in a meeting but refused to confirm the assassination of the bank manager, adding that he would call back to speak on the matter.

Meanwhile, the Imo State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Aloysius Okorie has said that there was no kidnap of a Catholic bishop as was published in some newspapers.

In a statement signed by Okorie and made available to the media in Owerri yesterday, the command also said it never confirmed to correspondents that a Catholic bishop was kidnapped .

About 22 young people were yesterday paraded before journalists at the Abia State Police headquarters, Umuahia by the Police Commissioner, Mr. Edgar Tam Nanakumo as suspected robbers and kidnappers.

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Speaking while parading them, Nanakumo said that one of them was arrested by men of the state police command at a checkpoint at Aba Motor Park and in the process found two locally fabricated pistols on him.

The said suspect confessed to the journalists that he belonged to the Vikings cult but that he had denounced its membership and did not know what was in the bag he was carrying which he said was given to him to hand over to somebody in Aba.

According to Nankumo, during investigation, it was found that the guns were being procured by the Vikings members for a reprisal attack on a rivalry cult , adding that the other six were later arrested in their hideouts.

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