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Monday, January 04, 2010

## Gunmen kill Edo monarch

*From Alemma-Ozioruva Aliu, Benin*

**I**T was a sad New Year celebration for Ugolo Community in Ovia South West Local Council as its traditional ruler, His Royal Highness, Solomon Udobor, 55, was killed by suspected assassins.

Though the reason for the murder could not yet be ascertained, The Guardian gathered that it may be connected to the rulership tussle in the community.

The state police spokesman, Peter Ogboi (ASP), confirmed the shooting but did not give further details. "I can confirm to you that there was a signal that some two boys came to shoot a community leader."

But a senior police officer at the state headquarters told The Guardian yesterday that investigation has begun and that report from Ugbowo Police Station showed that three persons have been arrested in connection with the murder.

The gunmen were said to have shot at the traditional ruler several times at his residence in Idele Street, Uwelu quarters at about 7:30 p.m.

The late traditional ruler was said to have been crowned Enogie of Ugolo in 1980 and that two years ago, a rival Enogie was crowned, which was said to have sparked off confrontation among the supporters of the two rival rulers.

The crowning of the new Enogie was said to have been faulted by the Oba of Benin who sanctioned those involved in the installation of another Enogie.

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