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 THE GUARDIAN

Sunday, April 4, 2010

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## Benin chief murdered in cold blood

*From Alemma-Ozoruvu Alu, Benin City*

It was a black Friday for the people of Igbekhue Kingdom in Orhionmwon. Local Government Council in Edo State, as a high-profile chief in the kingdom, Friday Osazuwa, was shot dead by bandits. \_

The popular businessman in his late 40s was said to have met his untimely death when a four-man gang of assassins on motorbike were said to have stormed his warehouse located at number 3, Goroti Road, off Upper Sakponba Road, at about 4pm last Friday. \_

It was gathered that one of the killers masked with blue hood had, on arrival, pumped hot lead into the chest of their victim, as another person opposite the scene of the attack was hit by a stray bullet.

Residents, who witnessed the ugly drama, where the chief was murdered, were forced to flee as the assassins shot sporadically in the air in order to clear their way for escape after accomplishing their evil task, which left the man in the pool of his own blood. \_

The Guardian gathered that policemen from Ugbekun station arrived the scene five minutes after the gunmen had left the scene and recovered expended and live ammunitions inside the gutter near the scene of the assassination. \_

Narrating the incident, one of the relations of the late chief (names withheld) said he was at a place when he received a phone call to come immediately to his brother's shop that he had been shot by gunmen. \_

He said on getting there, he was shocked to find his brother dead. The source added, before his sudden death, the late chief did not complained about having disagreement or encounter with anybody.

He described the deceased as an unassuming young man but said that the family members would definitely get to the root of the matter. \_

The body of the deceased had been deposited at the morgue of the Central Hospital, even as sympathisers continued to pour into his home since the incident occurred. \_

It would be recalled that barely one week ago, on Palm Sunday, gunmen in an Audi 80 taxi cab, killed a United States-based medical doctor, Dr. Charles Ndulue, close to the Central Hospital gate on Sapele Road in Benin City, as he was returning from church.

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[Africa](#)  
[World](#)  
[Business](#)

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[Contributors](#)  
[Letters](#)  
[Cartoons](#)  
[Discussions](#)  
[Outlook](#)

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[Abroad](#)  
[Golf Weekly](#)  
[Results](#)

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[Media](#)  
[Science](#)  
[Natural Health](#)  
[Law](#)  
[Education](#)  
[Weekend](#)  
[Friday Review](#)  
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In another ugly incident, residents of the First East Circular were on the wrong side of time as suspected armed robbers cashed in on the evening outing of celebrants of the Easter festivities to unleash mayhem on some eateries and other businesses. \_

One of such attacks was visited on a popular eatery located opposite the Saint Joseph Catholic Church, on the East Circular Road, at about 7:45pm last Friday. \_

The robbers were at the business spot when it was time for the staff to take stock of the day's sales. But luck ran out on them as some policemen on routine patrol checks were immediately drafted to the scene and engaged the robbers in a gun battle. \_

One of the robbers was killed during the exchange of fire, while others took to their heels. \_