

Suspected assassins kill cleric's wife

From **Charles Ogugbuaja, Owerri**

SUSPECTED assassins have murdered a 24-year-old Mrs. Stella Iwuchukwu, wife of a pastor at the Victory Baptist Church, Akwakuma in Owerri, Imo State.

According to unconfirmed sources, the assailants stormed the bedroom of the slain mother of two children, raped and strangled her.

The deceased's husband, Ozioma Iwuchukwu, who confirmed the incident to journalists, expressed regret that his wife could be a victim in the hands of hoodlums in the city.

According to him, his wife's killers dropped a note beside her body, which read: "Prayer man, this is your warning. We are watching".

The late Mrs. Iwuchukwu hailed from Bende in Abia State, but she got married to the 30-year-old pastor, from Ihitte-Ubi, Oparanadim, Ahiazu Local Council of Imo State. She was said to have recently gained admission to study Medicine at University of Calabar, Cross River State, before she was murdered.

The deceased's husband narrated that he left parsonage about 10.00 a.m. on the fateful day and later got a phone call about 4.30 p.m. that his wife had been murdered, stressing that when he rushed home, he saw her lying lifeless. When he rushed her to a nearby hospital, the doctors confirmed her dead.

The incident, Iwuchukwu said, took place when nobody was in the house. According to him, his two-year-old son and his cousin who noticed the unusual movement in the deceased's bedroom when they arrived from school, alerted their neighbours.