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Adetiloye

How Okonjo-Iweala's Mother Was Freed

From Hendrix Oliomogbe,
Asaba

GRAPHIC details of how some of the hoodlums who kidnapped Prof Kamene Okonjo, mother of Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, were arrested in the rescue operation was painted by

the Delta State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ikechukwu Aduba, yesterday in Asaba. Kamene, wife of Prof Chukwuka Okonjo, the Obi of Ogwashi-Uku in Aniocha South Council of the state, was abducted last Sunday at the palace. In the bid to free the matriarch of the Okonjo family,

Aduba explained that the leader of the gang, one Nwazor Nwose, popularly called Bolaji, was killed by the police during a shootout in the Umuaji neighbourhood of Asaba. Aduba described Bolaji as a notorious bandit, who was earlier arrested by the police some months ago and charged to court, but was freed on bail,

father suddenly started running temperature on Thursday, prompting family members to quickly contact the physicians that attended to his health.

only for him to return to his old business of kidnapping for ransom. He said that when the police stormed the kingpin's hideout in Asaba, he attempted to escape, but was shot. The Police chief explained that the suspect still managed to scale the fence of his house,

planning of churches, and his interest in not only the spiritual life of church members, but also their education, health and economic well-being. He said the cleric lived a good life devoted to unconditional service of God and humanity, recalling his notable achievements, especially his promotion of religious tolerance in the country. The President said Adetiloye, whose tenure coincided with military rule in Nigeria, exhibited immense courage in his robust interventions in national discourses, as he spoke forcefully against undemocratic governance and prayed God to grant his soul eternal rest.

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Leader Of Prof Okonjo's Kidnappers Killed

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but was arrested outside the compound and died on the way to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Asaba, where his corpse has been deposited in the morgue.

He listed items recovered from the hoodlums as their getaway Volkswagen car, marked DELTA ASB 677 AA, with which they abducted the Queen and a Toyota minibus, marked ANAMBRA KPP 64 XA, with the inscription of God's Light City Church International.

Both vehicles were parked at a corner of the sprawling Police headquarters on Okpanam Road, Asaba.

Aduba said a combined team of policemen from Abuja and Delta State carried out the operation, adding that Mrs. Okonjo, a retired professor of Sociology, was freed from the kidnappers' den in Kwale,

Ndokwa West Council of the state, which the police stormed after the killing of the gang leader and the arrest of other gang members.

He gave the names of the other gang members arrested as Hard Rock, Tsetse Fly and Tipper Boy, stressing that a manhunt for the other members was on.

Aduba said: "Acting on information, we were able to identify the target, who lives in Asaba, the mastermind of the kidnap of Mrs. Okonjo, one Nwazor Nwose, also known and addressed as Bolaji, who hails from Umuaji Quarters, Asaba.

"He is a notorious kidnapper, who was arrested some months ago. Some few months ago, before my arrival in the state, he was arrested and arraigned in court and freed on bail, but continued with his nefarious activities. This time around, he has met

his Waterloo."

The Police commissioner explained that when the operation to free the octogenarian started, the police had to be extra careful, because if they had stormed kidnappers' hideout, it could have resulted in fatalities, in view of her age.

On rumours that a ransom was paid before she was set free, Aduba said that as an institution, the police does not get itself involved in the payment of ransoms. He said it was only the family members that could speak authoritative-

ly on the issue.

The Palace spokesman, Chief Lawrence Okolobi, who confirmed the release, said the rest of the family members were surprised, but very excited when the Queen rode into the palace on an *Okada* after she was set free by her captors.

Amidst tight security at the palace, Okolobi stressed that no ransom was paid before she was freed.

He said the minister's mother was released unhurt and in high spirit, but too traumatised to narrate her experience

during her five-day captivity.

At Ogwashi-Uku, the ordinary people carried on as usual, but the mood in Asaba was exhilarating, following the killing of Nwose, who most locals who knew him described as a taciturn middle-aged man with a heart of lion.

Commissioner for Information, Mr. Chike Ogeah, described Prof Okonjo's freedom as a thing of great joy, saying her abduction was contrary to African culture, which has great respect for the elderly and hold traditional institu-

tions in the highest esteem.

The minister, in a statement by her Special Adviser, Mr. Paul Nwabuike, thanked President Goodluck Jonathan, the security agencies for their excellent operations, and Governors Emmanuel Uduaghan (Delta), Peter Obi (Anambra) and Chibuike Amaechi (Rivers), as well as other governors, friends and well wishers within and outside government for their prayers and encouragement during the very difficult period of her mother's captivity.

Adetiloye, Former Anglican Primate, Dies

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Rev. Canon Mike Olusola said "Baba was healthy and even interacted with the Bishops after the Standing Committee meeting at the church held in Ekiti recently."

The *Guardian* gathered that Adetiloye retired to his country home three years ago after the mandatory 70 years of serving the Church.

Efforts to reach the Archbishop and Primate of the Church of Nigeria, Most Rev. Nicholas D. Okoh, failed, as it was reliably gathered that he travelled to

Fayemi stated that the cleric's humility was unparalleled for choosing to retire to live a quiet life in his rustic village, when he had the opportunity to stay back in Lagos.

He said: "I was lost for words when I heard the news, as all of us, who are Baba's children, have every reason to grieve.

"He was always on the side of the truth and was always supporting us when we were battling to restore democracy, as the Abachas of this world didn't like him for speaking truth to power."

Adeola, while commending

God, who decided to become an Anglican priest at a very young age and followed his dream till the end.

"Baba's passion for evangelism and missions brought tremendous growth to the Anglican communion, particularly in northern Nigeria.

"He was a shining light in the Anglican Communion, a religious icon, whose devotion to evangelism and religious tolerance in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasised," Oni said.

The former governor of Ekiti State urged the family, the people of Odo-Owa Ekiti and the

ness, died in 1932 when Abiodun was just three years.

Adetiloye started his primary school at eight at Ijero-Ekiti from 1937 to 1942 and taught until 1950.

He started his church ministry in 1951 when he gained admission into Melville Hall (Anglican Training College), Kudeti, Ibadan in Oyo State. He was made a Deacon in 1953 and served as a Curate at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Ake, Abeokuta from 1953 to 1956, when he left for England for further studies. He returned to Nigeria and was

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GOD IS LOVE BIBLE CHURCH

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