

Gunmen kill hotelier, abduct businessman in Imo

From **Charles Ogugbuaja**, Owerri

BLOODTHIRSTY gunmen yesterday killed a hotel proprietor, Kelvin Ezekwem, in Umuocha, Awa, Oguta Local Council of Imo State.

Similarly, a businessman simply identified as Okechukwu in Egbelu, Agbala, Owerri North Council of the state has been kidnapped.

His abductors, according to sources who disclosed to *The Guardian*, have demanded a ransom of N20 million before he could regain freedom.

The two incidences were confirmed to journalists by the Imo State Police command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Vitalis Onugu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP).

According to sources, Ezekwem, who recently commissioned his hotel was said to have gone to bring a brand of beer requested by his customers when they pulled their trigger, shooting him on the leg and carried him into a waiting Toyota Camry car and took him to a primary school in the area, Community Primary School, Akabor, Oguta area. He was said to have received more gun bullets all over his body and was dumped lifeless.

His attempted rescuers who rushed to the scene were disappointed as his corpse was seen lifeless.

The source further said that his remains were deposited at a nearby morgue. The deceased, before his untimely death, was said to have had quarrel with his wife three days earlier, leading to him allegedly sending her parking from her matrimonial home.