

Gunmen kill APC chieftain, wife, son in Rivers

From Kelvin Ebiri, Port Harcourt

A CHIEFTAIN of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Franklin Obi, his wife and son have been murdered in Omoku, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Council of Rivers State. Obi, who was the party's Ward 4 Chairman in Omoku, was killed alongside the duo at the weekend by unknown gunmen.

A source in the community, who pleaded anonymity, told *The Guardian* that the gunmen had invaded the late politician's residence at about 9:30 pm on Saturday night, inflicting several machete cuts on him before his eventual decapitation along with his wife, Iheoma and 18-year old son, Bestman.

The 16-year-old daughter of the deceased whose name was unmentioned for security reasons said

she hid and helplessly watch the gunmen brutally murder her parents and elder brother in cold blood.

According to her, the gunmen after beheading her father, left with his head.

"I was inside when I heard my mum crying. We heard the sound of a gunshot and his somewhere in the room. I opened the curtain of my room and I saw the men cutting off my father's head. They then came to our room and ordered me and my brother to come out and as we were coming, my brother was moving slowly and they shot him. They then left with my father's head," she said.

Meanwhile the state Commissioner of Police, Musa Kimo, yesterday visited the community to assess the situation, saying he was saddened by the fact that those who allegedly saw the gunmen when

they invaded the deceased's residence failed to alert the police or other security agents in the town.

The police chief assured tighter security in the area where many had been gruesomely slain by marauding gangs in recent weeks.

"It is sad in the sense that we are all bereaved. The governor, I and other security officers were in Omoku two weeks ago in search of peace. Unfortunately, violence has continued to pervade, dovetailing into kidnappings and murders. Last night, precisely 2100 hours, one Mr. Franklin Obi, APC Chairman, Ward 4, Omoku, the wife and son were gruesomely murdered in their house. This is bad, this is a sin and totally not acceptable. I am here to commiserate with

the deceased families and also to re-strategise and put pungent security measures

EFCC set to arraign Tarfa, Nwobike

THE EFCC is set to arraign two Senior Advocates of Nigeria, (SAN), Rickey Tarfa and Joseph Nwobike, before a Lagos State High Court.

They are accused of offering gratification, running into millions of naira to judges to influence decisions in their favour.

In two separate charges filed by the EFCC and sighted by *The Guardian* yesterday, Tarfa is facing a 27-count of alleged wilful obstruction of authorised officers of EFCC, refusing to declare asset, making false information to an officer of EFCC and offering gratification to a public official. Nwobike on the other hand, is facing a five count charge of allegedly attempting to pervert justice and offering gratification to public official.

ures in place in order to forestall future occurrence," Kimo said.

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