

Metro

Gunmen kidnap Appeal Court judge, kill police orderly in Edo

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• Buhari, security agencies must ensure Justice Nwosu-Iheme's release

A Judge of the Court of Appeal, Benin Division, Justice Chioma Nwosu-Iheme, was on Wednesday kidnapped by dare-devil gunmen in Benin City, capital of Edo State. The police orderly, Inspector A. I. Momoh, was also killed by the gunmen before whisking her away.

Justice Nwosu-Iheme is the chairman of the three-man panel sitting on the appeals arising from the 2019 State and National Assembly elections in Edo State. She is Nigeria's first female doctoral degree holder to serve as a judge, after studying the Law of Intellectual Property up to Ph.D level. It was gathered that the gunmen, numbering four, trailed their victim from Ramat Park axis of the Benin-Agbor Road in an unmarked Toyota Camry car and intercepted her vehicle around the highway on the same road.

An eyewitness, who craved anonymity, said immediately after intercepting the judge, the hoodlums shot the tyre of her Toyota Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV), forcing it to a halt. The source added that the gunmen also opened fire on the police orderly, killing him on the spot before hurriedly whisking away the female judge to an unknown destination in their car.

The incident occurred in the absence of the state's police boss, who is attending a summit for Commissioners of Police being hosted by the Inspector General of Police in Lagos. The kidnappers are yet to make any ransom demand. When contacted, the state police command spokesman, DSP Chidi Nwabuzor, confirmed the incident. He said: "The incident occurred today at about 11:30a.m. along Benin-Agbor Expressway by Christ Chosen Church of God International. The judge was attacked while the police orderly attached to her was murdered and the driver of the vehicle severely injured and rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

"Immediately, the police operatives of Ikpoba Hill Divisional Police Headquarters, the tactical team of Edo State Command and other relevant sections swung into action, but unfortunately, they got away with her. Investigation is ongoing and by the grace of God, Justice Nwosu-Iheme will be rescued unhurt."



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