

HURIWA faults Ebonyi govt over alleged killing of engineers

From Ernest Nzor, Abuja

THE Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) has faulted the Ebonyi State Governor, David Umahi, for confirming the killing of five engineers and abduction of others at Onu-Nwenewo in Ezza, Effium Community of Ohaukwu Council of the state.

In a statement issued yesterday in Abuja by its National Coordinator, Emmanuel Onwubiko and National Media Affairs Director, Zainab Yusuf, HURIWA appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to order the Inspector General

Seeks Buhari, IGP, DSS' intervention on rescue of others victims

of Police, Usman Alkali Baba, to rescue the victims.

It added that President Buhari should also ask the Director General of the Department of State Services (DSS) to investigate and assist in the rescue of the missing engineers in Ebonyi State.

"Governor Umahi said he sacked two coordinators of a development centre in Effium Community during a security meeting organised by the state's founding fathers led by former Governor Martins Elechi and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), among oth-

ers.

"The governor made the announcement without reaching out to the families of the ADB engineers just as the families told HURIWA in Enugu that Umahi did not notify them and till date he has not made any attempt to prove that their breadwinners were dead," the statement reads.

They lamented that Umahi had neither produced the killers, nor shown evidence of the victims' burial, which made the announcement curious and suspicious, given the antecedents and encounters between the

chief consultants who have been missing since the incident.

HURIWA asked President Muhammadu Buhari to compel Umahi to provide the missing engineers alive, because although the governor was aware of their disappearance, he allegedly instigated another company to replace the consultants.

It further stated that in a letter sent to the Country Representative of African Development Bank (AfDP), the state government communicated the engineers in writing through one Felix Ottah to express its displeas-

ure over their absence from the construction site.

The group stated that the state government complained that their absence at the site amounted to gross negligence of duty, adding: "Upon receipt of their letter dated November 10, 2021 the engineers reacted on November 11, 2021.

"It is important we refer to the fact that as of November 10, 2021 when we received the letter of complainant from the Ebonyi State Government, the official date of the commencement of the project had not yet matured."