

Abducted Imo police inspector's corpse found in bush

From **Charles Ogugbuaja**, Owerri

THE corpse of a police inspector, Augustine Ukegbu, kidnapped by gunmen during the Easter celebration, has been found dumped in a bush near his ancestral home.

Ukegbu, a serving officer at Orji Police Divisional headquarters, Owerri North, Imo State, had travelled to his ancestral home in Umuoshike Ogbor, Aboh Mbaise Local Council of Imo State, to join in the celebration of Easter, when he was abducted by gunmen.

The late Ukegbu, had served in the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Department of the police in the state.

The Guardian learnt that

some hoodlums invaded the deceased's home on April 8, 2023, at about 11:00p.m., abducted and dumped him in a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV), before zooming off to an unknown destination.

A source said after his abduction and lack of information on his whereabouts, the late cop's kinsmen launched a manhunt for the hoodlums and the victim, combed the bush in the vicinity, but later found his body in Mbutu, Aboh Mbaise Local Council.

His corpse was later deposited in a morgue near the area. Report was also lodged at the Oke Ovoro police Division, in the area.

The source said: "The late

inspector came to his home in the village to celebrate Easter with his family. The kidnappers came on April 8, 2023, at about 11:00p. m. in their Lexus Jeep and kidnapped him to an unknown destination. The next day after searching around the bush, his body was found in the bush." Spokesperson for Imo State Police Command, Henry Okoye, who confirmed the development, yesterday, said police operatives had commenced investigation into the dastardly act.

He said the SUV was abandoned near the place where the victim's body was recovered, adding that the vehicle has been retrieved to the police station.