Tragedy in Delta as gunmen kill new DPO days after resuming duty

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

THE Delta State Police Command has confirmed the killing of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) attached to Agharho Police Station by suspected kidnappers in Ughelli North Local Council.

"The Agharho DPO had just resumed duty two days ago. His wife is still at the hotel where he was staying and is unaware that her husband has been killed," a source disclosed.

Police spokesperson Bright Edafe confirmed the killing in Asaba on Monday.

He told *The Guardian* that the suspected kidnappers also shot the DPO of the Orerokpo division, who is currently in intensive care at an undisclosed hospital.

The Orerokpe DPO, identified as CSP Paul, is in critical condition, and his chances of survival are uncertain.

Delta CP, Olufemi Abaniwonda

Edafe, speaking with emotion, said the police teams were ambushed early in the morning. The kidnappers opened fire, leading to the death of the Agharho DPO and injuring several other officers.

"Details about the killing are still emerging, but we can confirm that the Agharho Police Division DPO has been killed," he said.

The Guardian has learned that an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) is missing following the gun battle.

Sources said the police responded to distress calls at approximately 1:30 a.m. yesterday, reporting that individuals had been kidnapped and their vehicles abandoned at the Agbarho railway station.

A source said: "The new Agharho DPO contacted his Orerokpe counterpart, and they mobilised a team to respond to the incident. However, they were ambushed by the kidnappers, who opened fire on them. The Agharho DPO was killed, and the Orerokpe DPO was seriously wounded and rushed to hospital. Other police officers in the team were also injured, but we don't yet know the exact number."

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