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Wednesday, 03 September 2008

Breaking News: **NLC Leadership _**



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Gunmen Kill Catholic Priest, Three Policemen In Delta

By Harris-okon Emmanuel, Correspondent, Warri

Three mobile policemen have been killed by bandits in Isiokolo, Delta State, in an orgy that also took the life of a Catholic Priest, John Mark Ikpiki, and led to the stealing of his Hyundai Elantra car marked EH 447 SMK.

The car was later abandoned in Ohruwhorum.

Police Public Relations Officer, Charles Morka, confirmed the deaths, as well as the recovery of the car, and that investigation is on to apprehend the murderers.

Ikpiki was going to settle an accident case involving a vehicle belonging to his church when he met his untimely death on Tuesday.

An eyewitness said he was dragged out of his car and shot in the head: which suggested assassination.

Sympathisers rushed him to a hospital where he was certified dead by doctors.

He was until his death the Director of Communications of the Warri Diocese of the Catholic Church, and he featured regularly on television in the city to propagate the Gospel.

"Immediate reaction is one of deep shock, profound sadness, grief," said Richard Burke, the Archbishop and Administrative Head of the Warri Diocese.

"My heart goes out to the family members of (Ikpiki) and also to all my Catholic brothers and Priests. My heart also goes out to the members of St. Ambrose Parish and his colleagues and associates in Verias Communications, which is the communication organ of the Archdiocese.

"That is my immediate reaction; but coupled with that, I know outrage is a strong word, but this is something close to that. Such a senseless and tragic incident happened to a completely innocent man of the Gospel who was sent to do his legitimate assignment in that area and was in the process of discharging the assignment. In the twinkle of an eye, in the space of a few seconds, his life was taken away.

"Of course, it brings into play the growing issue in our community of insecurity. I know the police are doing their best - as anywhere you go there are police check points on major highways. They have a part to play, and they are doing the best they can, but it is ironic that this particular incident could happen right under the nose of the police, very close to a police station and almost, as I understand it, under the nose of the Armed Forces.

"So, there is the need to look at the whole issue of security in the society. It is not just a police issue or Army issue, it is more than that, and deeper than that. It brings about the question of the kidnapping of our children. We are all responsible for the situation, we cannot just point fingers at any section of our society."

Burke blamed the upsurge in crime on poor social background.

"It has to do with upbringing and education, and that is why we have been pleading for years for the government to give us back our schools so that we can train our children in the way they are meant to be trained.

"To give them a good moral education, a good religious education with values of the Gospel, human decency so that they can grow up to be law-abiding citizens."

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Editorial/ Letters



Stock Market Bubble Burst?

These are certainly not the best of times for the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) with the All Share Index (ASI) and market capitalisation plunging to 12-month lows.

Op-Ed/ Comments

Nigeria: A Nation In Physical And Spiritual Darkness (2)

Events during the week and another encounter with the 'wise one' made the second part of this piece inevitable.

UN Climate Plans Vs. The Poor

Despite the breakdown of United Nations (UN) climate-change talks in Bali last December, the same themes were still being pushed at last week's meeting in Ghana--but now developing countries have begun to question the effects on the world's poorest.

The Importance Of Being Honest

Nigeria has her fair share of top public officers prone to verbal blunders or just plain speakers, Biden-like in character.

Columnist

Conversation of an Angry man Deconstructing The New Niger-Delta Militancy

Jacobs, a fan of the Angryman, in this article examined the trans-national perspective of the Niger-Delta conflict and argues that the insurgency is gradually assuming the dimension in Iraq both in strategy and effects.

Candour's Niche Corruption As Nigeria's Thriving Industry

Whenever anyone tries to compare Nigeria to any of the European countries or the U.S., the refrain you get, from those who claim to wear the epaulet of

Scruples America And The Obama Challenge (2)

Last week's decision by Democratic Party presidential hopeful, Senator Barack Obama, to insinuate a likely affiliation between the Republican Party and

The Roundtable Day Gov. Obi's Wife Visited Ojoto

I knew I had an onerous task on my hands when the Anambra State governor's wife, Mrs. Margaret Obi, requested the Presidents-General of the 177 towns to constitute women wings for effective coordination.

Speaking Out They Probably Have Done It Again!

Independent Opinion Poll
Do you consider the recent demotion of Ex-EFCC Boss, Ribadu, as an appropriate measure for due process?
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