

Assassins kill lawyer in Kaduna

By **Baba Negedu**
Reporter, Kaduna

KADUNA was again thrown into palpable fear following the killing of a lawyer, Jim Onoigberale, in the early hours of Saturday by unknown assailants at his home, five days after a senior operative of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was killed in the city.

Witnesses told *Sunday Independent* that the late legal practitioner was brutally murdered in his Jim Close, Ungwan Maisamari, Malali, Kaduna, about 2.15 a.m. on Saturday.

The chieftain of the Kaduna State chapter of the Niger Delta Peoples Forum, was reportedly

shot at a close range on the chest by his killers.

Sunday Independent learnt that the late barrister, who noticed unusual activity around his house, was talking to one of his neighbours on his mobile phone that night marauders were in his house but while the neighbour was making clarification, he discovered that there was no response from the lawyer's mobile phone but was hearing confusion and noise from the background.

"At that point, I knew something was wrong, and I started calling other neighbours while some called *Operation Yaki*, the state security outfit. But before they arrived, he was shot dead and the assassins escaped," the

source said.

Sources at the late legal practitioner's residence said the assailants gained access into the house through the fence at the wee hours of Saturday, and threatened to kill the security man on duty, Peter Osumno, if he made any attempt to alert his master.

"I saw them numbering about five and they all had guns. Two of them were on top of the fence while the remaining three used iron rod to break into the main flat where my master and his family were. He was shot in the master's bedroom. They did not take anything away, except for some of his documents which they later abandoned," said the security man.