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Daily Independent (Lagos)

Nigeria: Robbers Attack Ekwueme's Brother, Kill Driver

Emmanuel Nzomiwu

9 December 2010

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Enugu — Prof. Obumneme Ekwueme, younger brother of former Vice President, Alex Ekwueme, was attacked by armed robbers on Wednesday night at Oji River, Enugu State.

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On Thursday morning, Enugu businessman, Ifeanyi Okoye, was kidnapped along Enugu-Port-Harcourt expressway, on his way to Aba, Abia State.

Ekwueme, a medical doctor, operates popular Enugu Clinics, while Okoye is Managing Director of JUHEL Group of Companies.

Ekwueme and his driver were returning to Enugu from Anambra State when they were attacked by the robbers.

The Professor of Medicine narrowly escaped, but his driver was killed during the attack.

Our sources disclosed that the hoodlums took advantage of a bad portion of the expressway at Okwe village, Ugwuoba in Oji River, to launch the attack.

The robbers fired at the driver when he slowed down the car to maneuver the bad portion of the road.

The bullets hit the driver instantly, but he managed to move the car a safe distance from the danger spot before he halted, even as he bled.

The robbers dashed out of the bush and rushed towards Ekwueme's car, firing gunshots sporadically.

The shots however attracted a joint Army and police highway patrol team and on sighting the security operatives, the robbers fled into the bush.

The patrol team rescued Ekwueme unhurt and rushed his injured driver to National Orthopedic Hospital Enugu, where he died few hours after.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Enugu State Command, Ebere Amaraizu, confirmed the incident.

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Amaraizu blamed the bad portion of the road for the incident, stressing that the robbers took advantage of it to attack the victims.

The reporter was yet to get details of the kidnap of the businessman as of press time on Thursday.

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