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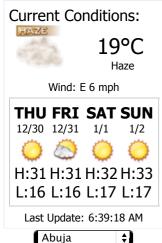
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Weather in Abuja, Nigeria



# Cartoon for the day

# **Gunmen kill South East CD boss**

By Yemi Akintomide (Akure) and Ben Duru (Umuahia)

Campaign for Democracy (CD) South East Chairman, Chidi Nwosu, was on Wednesday killed by gunmen who shot him several times in the head and left him in a pool of blood.

He was murdered in his country home at Ameke village in Abia State, where he had gone to celebrate Christmas with extended family members and

Convener of the Conference of Nigerian Civil Rights Activists (CNCRA), Ifeanyi Odili, broke the news to reporters in Akure.

Dressed in a black T-shirt, Odili said sorrowfully that the CNCRA and all human rights activists in Nigeria "are today mourning one of their members and we want to inform the Federal Government that we are seriously regreting our participation in chasing away the military juntas."

He blamed the security problem on the government at all levels, saying: "A country where its citizens are being kidnapped, gruesomely murdered in cold blood like chicken, with religious and political killings all over the land, building up of arms, and where bombing of innocent citizens are the order of the day, is not acceptable to us.

"It is highly regrettable that in the past four years or more, insecurity and arms build up in Nigeria have assumed a dangerous dimension, leaving Nigerians to live in fear and tension.

"The men of the underworld, kidnappers, and militants have taken over the government of Nigeria. One wonders if this is the way democracy is practised in the Western world."

Odili implored the Inspector General of Police, Hafiz Ringim, to commence a full scale investigation into what led to the murder of Nwosu, "a gentleman and harmless civil rights activist."

He vowed that the CNCRA will not allow his body to be laid to rest until it invokes his "spirit to personally fight for himself and bring the names of his killers to book, because no one kills the initiated the way the novice is killed.'

Nwosu's wife, Amaka, told journalists that her husband was returning from a wakekeep at about 4:30 a.m. when he was felled by bullets in his compound.

She said the assassins had trailed him.

Amaka disclosed that the incident has been reported to the police, but Police Public Relations Officer, Geoffrey Ogbonna, denied knowledge of it.

Nwosu had been in the forefront for peaceful elections, a cause he pursued through seminars and workshops held in Umuahia, Aba, and other locations.

He used his network to pursue a credible electoral system between 2003 and 2007 and spoke out against the abuse of the Constitution and the Electoral Act, which he insisted are the bedrocks of democracy.

CD President Joe Okei-Odumakin said she received news of his death with shock, and urged Ringim to investigate the murder, arrest the criminals and their sponsors, and prosecute them.

"Our hearts bleed that the civil rule that took the sweat and blood of many is being put into jeopardy by mindless acts," she lamented.

Nwosu, 39, is survived by his wife, Amaka, a daughter, and aged parents.



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