

The act was said to have been committed on January 15, 2014 while the victim was praying in the church.

person was responsible for the untimely death of Pastor Oguntayo, stressing that the offence com-

nessa prison custody. He subsequently adjourned the case till March 7, 2014 for mention.

# Ebonyi police parade kidnap suspects

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THE Ebonyi State Police Command on Thursday paraded two kidnap suspects, John Okoro and Monday Onu.

The suspects, who hail from Nguzu Eddah Community in Afikpo South Local Government Area of the State, were alleged to have kidnapped the father of a People's Democratic Party (PDP) stalwart and business mogul, Chief Julius Ama Oji.

Briefing journalists at the Police Headquarters Abakaliki, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Chris Anyanwu, said that the kidnap victim, late Chief Ama Oji who died few days after the incident, was abducted by the gunmen in his country home, Nguzu Eddah in Afikpo South Local Government Area.

According to the PPRO, "I want to inform you of some of the events that unfolded recently concerning the kidnapping of one late chief Ama Oji of Nguzu Edda in Afikpo South LGA. It was on December 11, 2013 that four hoodlums invaded his compound at gunpoint. The hoodlums on getting to his compound took hold of their victim and tied him up, hands and legs, stuffed his mouth with some materials so as not to raise alarm.

"The kidnappers took hold of him, dumped him inside his jeep parked within the compound and

were about to zoom off with the jeep but unfortunately it had no battery inside it.

"According to the confessional statement of one of the kidnappers, as soon as the kidnappers discovered that they could not move with the jeep, they became distressed and started scampering for escape. One of them, John Okoro, immediately boarded a vehicle going to Igbere in Bende Local Government Area of Abia State and when he got to the place, he entered a gas station and was making frantic phone calls.

"While he was making the phone call to find out the state of things at the scene of the incident, one of them later arrested and known as, Monday Onu who led the other two others that came from Elele Animiri in Rivers State informed him to vanish because himself and the said John were the only people that hail from Nguzu Edda.

"During interrogation and from the confessional statements of John, we gathered that he is a relation of the kidnapped elder statesman. While he was making the call at Igbere, the owner of the gas station was very observant and suspected that something was wrong and he quickly alerted a police on patrol who swooped on him and arrested him.

"The Abia Police Command after interrogating the suspect handed him over to the Ebonyi State Police Command. During further interrogation in

Abakaliki, John informed detectives from the Ebonyi State Police Command of the involvement of the said Monday Onu whom he said masterminded the kidnap. Men of the command immediately swung into action and arrested the said Monday Onu".

The Police Public Relations Officer stated that the suspects would be arraigned in court and urged members of the public to avail the police of useful information to eliminate crime in the state.

One of the suspects, John Okoro, told newsmen that he was contacted by the said Monday Onu to kidnap the man.

"I came down to the village and Monday met me and informed me of their plan to kidnap the father of Chief Julius Ama Oji but I refused to join them since we are from the same village.

"They gave me mask and other items but I did not enter inside the victim's compound with them. When they came out from his house, Monday asked me to run away, I decided to travel back to Igbere but while I was making call in a petrol station, the police came and arrested me, took me to Umuahia police station from there to Abakaliki Police Station".

But in a reaction, the second suspect, Monday Onu, denied any involvement in the kidnap incident and stated that John only wanted to rope him in since they are from the same village.