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Suspected assassins kill hotelier in Delta

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By Sunday Apah/Ughelli



Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar

A HOTELIER, identified as Mr. Johnbull Mukoro, who resides in Eyara community, Ughievwen Clan, Ughelli South Local Government Area, Delta State was on Saturday found dead at his home in a suspected case of assassination.

Sources who live close to the deceased said they had no knowledge of any attack or gunshot at his residence through Friday night before his lifeless body was discovered in his compound on Saturday morning.

His left abdomen burst opened and his bowels sagging with an expended bullet shell beside him.

Mr. Austine Duru, Divisional Police Officer, Otu-Jeremi, when contacted confirmed that he just received the report, saying that it was too early to establish a clue to

the circumstances as the Otu-Jeremi Division personnel removed the deceased for mortuary.

Sources at the Otu-Jeremi Divisional Police headquarters, however, told *Daily Independent* that the death of Mukoro was assassination even though the suspected killers presumably left with his Toyota RAV4 at the end of their mission.

"That car is spent apart from being an old model. You hardly can kill a man to steal that kind of car. Most likely they killed the target outside his home before bringing him in and leaving with one of his cars to look like robbery. The bullet shell found beside him suggests he was fired at close range but there was no trace of blood anywhere around. It points to a professional assassination", the police said.

News of the incident unsettled rural Eyara community for much of Saturday and Sunday as residents, in clusters, debated all the possibilities in fear for their own lives and pity for the dead.

Late Mukoro, a native of Erhuwaren community, returned last year to his native Ughievwen clan, Ukpédi kingdom, Ughelli South Local Government Area of Delta state to re-establish, in neighbouring Eyara community, due to his thriving hotel investments in Minna, Niger State which has been experiencing a slide in recent times from Boko Haram insecurity up North.

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