Gunmen Kill Retired Army Officer In Delta

BY KOLA EKE-OGIUGO, Asaba

Unknown gunmen in the early hours of yesterday allegedly killed a retired army captain, one Chief Isaac Opia and part of his body mutilated along old Sapele/Abraka road in Delta State.

Reports said that the retired army captain after being robbed was shot dead on the spot by the unknown gunmen around Obiaruku community on his way back from the United Bank for Africa (UBA) Abraka branch where he had gone to collect some money for the renewal of his security company operational licence.

Speaking to our correspondent, Pastor (Mrs.) Lilian Ekanem, the sister of the victim, stated that an eye witness at the scene of the incident who did not want her name in the print claimed she saw four gunmen who forcefully stopped the victim's vehicle and robbed him of his money including cell phone, dragged him out of his Jeep and shot him on the spot in the chest before they dashed into the bush.

Accordingly, she said that the eye witness ran to the police station in Obiaruku community to lodge the report, adding that the police immediately swung into action to bring to book the gunmen but their efforts have proved abortive so far.

Lamenting that the murder of the victim was a major setback to her family, Pastor (Mrs) Ekanem said until he was killed he defended and secured life and property of persons within the community including members of the family, and urged the police and other security agents to fish out the killers.

But the police public relations officer in the state, DSP Celestina Kalu confirmed the incident saying that the victim was an active member of the vigilante group in Obiaruku; adding that the police would do everything possible to fish out the assailants.