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## Six killed as kidnappers, policemen battle in Rivers, Anambra

By **Bisi Olaniyi** | Published 4/05/2010 | **News** | Rating: ★★★★★

●Former council boss abducted ●Anxiety over kidnapped Uyo pastor

Kidnappers are on the rampage in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, and its environs.

A Ghanaian woman was kidnapped at Rukpokwu, Port Harcourt. She was rescued by **policemen** yesterday from the boot of a car.

The siege began on Sunday, when an employee of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Mrs. Rita Oparocha, was kidnapped by four armed men behind Rumuokwuta Girls Secondary School, Port Harcourt.

She was taken from her car as she was driving into her home.

The police blocked all possible escape routes. Around 9:30 pm, **policemen** exchanged gunfire with the kidnappers at Edegelem, where a police patrol van caught fire after it was hit. Two bystanders were injured.

At Tank Junction in Rumukrushi, Port Harcourt, at 11 pm, the kidnappers were engaged by Elimgbu police. A policeman, who was killed and his rifle stolen, died yesterday.

Around 2 am yesterday, men of the Swift Operation Squad (SOS) and Eneka police station forced the kidnappers to abandon a Honda car, from which the Ghanaian was rescued.

Police spokesperson Rita Inoma-Abbey confirmed the incidents.

Also in **Anambra**, unknown gunmen suspected to be kidnappers on Sunday killed five **policemen** and abducted former Chairman of Nnewi North Local Government Area Ernest Obiorah.

According to sources, the gunmen shot and killed the five **policemen** at Orifite in Ekwusigo council area, after abducting Obiorah.

The **policemen** were allegedly on a rescue mission to free the kidnapped former chairman.

Another source said the suspected kidnappers ran into the officers at a checkpoint at Oraifite after kidnapping the former council boss at Nnewi. They opened fire, killing about five **policemen** while others were injured.

Deputy Commissioner Oshodi Glover said he was not aware of the incident.

But, an Assistant Commissioner of Police at the State Criminal Investigation Department, Mike Okoli, confirmed the incident.

The Police in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, have begun the search for the Senior Pastor of the Full Life Christian Church, Rev. Ntia I. Ntia, who was abducted on Saturday.

The Commissioner of Police, Walter Rugbere, said: "We are doing everything to ensure that the man is released."

The Church has declared that members embark on prayer sessions for the Pastor fondly called 'Papa'.

The kidnappers are yet to contact his family.

Ntia's wife presided over the first session of the service on Sunday, but could not complete it; she broke down.

Pastor Abel Damina of the Power Chapel and Chairman of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) youths' wing, who came to commiserate with the church, had to took over the second service.

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