

Gunmen kidnap Rivers REC's daughter

UNKNOWN gunmen yesterday abducted the daughter of the Rivers State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Utobeabasi Ikoiwak.

The 11-year-old daughter of Aniedi Ikoiwak was abducted during a church service at Abundant Life Ministry on Ikot Idung Road, Eket, Akwa Ibom State.

A source said the hoodlums, who were in police uniform, tried to kidnap Aniedi, but when the attempt failed, they took his daughter away.

• Demand N100m ransom

From Kazeem Ibrahim, Uyo

The pastor was held at gun point by the kidnapers, who demanded Aniedi's whereabouts. The REC escaped.

Ikoiwak said the abductors have contacted the family and they are demanding N100 million ransom.

His words: "They have contacted the family and they are demanding N100 million ransom."

"I think security agents are aware. I just want her safe and back home."

The police said they are closing in on the kidnapers, adding that it had launched a manhunt for the hoodlums.

The Commissioner of Police, Felix Uyanna, confirmed the abduction, but promised to release details later.

Uyanna said: "I can give you the details later. I am currently in Abuja for a meet-

ing."

Police spokesman Onyeka Orji said the command had launched a manhunt for the kidnapers, and hoped that the girl would be rescued soon.

Orji said: "You know, we don't play with matters like kidnapping. We have already launched a manhunt for those hoodlums."

"We want to ensure that the innocent little girl is released unhurt. We are not happy about this development."

Kidnap victim rescued in Delta

From Polycarp Orosevwotu, Ughelli

THERE was excitement in Okpara community, Ethiope East Local Government of Delta State, following the rescue of a kidnap victim by men of the vigilance group and some policemen.

The victim, identified as Mrs. Veronica Obakponovwe, was said to have been abducted on the Warri/Sapele Road.

Chairman of the vigilance group, Ovoke Uvuara said he

Four killed in Delta communal crisis

FOUR persons have been killed in a communal clash in Ekpan community in Uvwie Local Government of Delta State.

Youths yesterday called for an independent panel of inquiry to investigate the clashes that have continued in the past two weeks.

Fresh tension hit the restive community, following the killing of two youths and two passers-by, including a wom-

• Youths seek Fed Govt's intervention

From Shola O'Neil, Warri

an labourer, who was hit by stray bullets.

A councillorship aspirant, Edigbe Ikpesan and Paul Pupu, were shot dead in the wake of the latest violence in the community.

Their deaths have led to fears of reprisal attacks.

A youth spokesperson, Ogakpor Lion, said he blamed the crisis on the activities of the police and members of the ruling party.

Ogakpor accused the police of taking sides with a faction, adding that unless the federal and state governments waded into the crisis, more people would be killed.

Commissioners get portfolios