

# Kidnapped poly lecturer found dead

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A lecturer with the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo (RUGIPO), Ondo State, Taiwo Akinyemi, who was among those abducted by suspected kidnappers last Tuesday, has been reportedly killed by the gunmen.

The development reportedly paralysed academic activities in the institution yesterday.

The students, lecturers and other workers mourned the teacher, a father of three.

There was a long procession round the school in honour of the deceased.

The late Akinyemi was kidnapped near Amurin, on Akure/Owo Road last Tuesday after close of work with four others.

The other victims regained freedom, but the lecturer was not so lucky, as his abductors killed him for his failure to pay ransom.

The remains of the 52-year-old lecturer were reportedly discovered in a bush on Sunday evening after six days in the kidnappers' den.

The Chairman of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Polytechnic (SSANIP), RUGIPO chapter, Mr. Chris Olowolade, described the incident as sad.

He said the union had entered into negotiation with the kidnappers in order to secure his release, adding: "It is, however, sad that we lost him to the kidnappers. We received his body yesterday.

"The kidnappers placed a ransom of N100million on him, which nobody can afford. They reduced it to N7million after two days and later grudgingly asked us to come with N.5million.

"The money was taken to them and the person who took the money was directed by the kidnappers where he should drop the money. They asked him to stop, reverse and move just to confirm if he was the actual person bringing the money."

Olowolade said after some hours, they called the man who brought the money to come back because they didn't see the money.

He said they, however, called the Rector yesterday to go and identify a body.

Olowolade said: "We rushed to the bush and discovered Akinyemi's body."

He said the body was recovered by the police and deposited at the morgue.

The SSANIP chairman said the deceased was shot in the back by the hoodlums and attacked with a machete before he was killed.

Addressing workers and students, Governor Rotimi Akeredolu explained that the government and security operatives tried to rescue the deceased.

He said: “It is unfortunate that the man couldn’t return home alive. The incident happened some five minutes after I passed the place and I had to deploy security men in my convoy to rescue the victims.”

The governor assured citizens that the government would be committed to the security of lives and property, saying he had directed security operatives to increase road patrol to curb the activities of criminals.

He said “These kidnappers are becoming daring and desperate; this is because we are approaching the festive period. But the police command has assured us that it will not limit its operation to stop and search only, but will also increase road patrol.”

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Akeredolu urged the people to inform the police about any strange movement or people in their community.

Said he: “Community policing and investigation can be done by the people because the police cannot be everywhere.

“I assure you on behalf of this administration that the government will do its best to ensure this will be last case of kidnap to be recorded in this state. The perpetrators will be brought to book.”

Police spokesman Femi Joseph, who confirmed the killing,

described the death of the lecturer as unfortunate, especially when other victims had regained freedom.

He said men of the police command were on the trail of the kidnappers.