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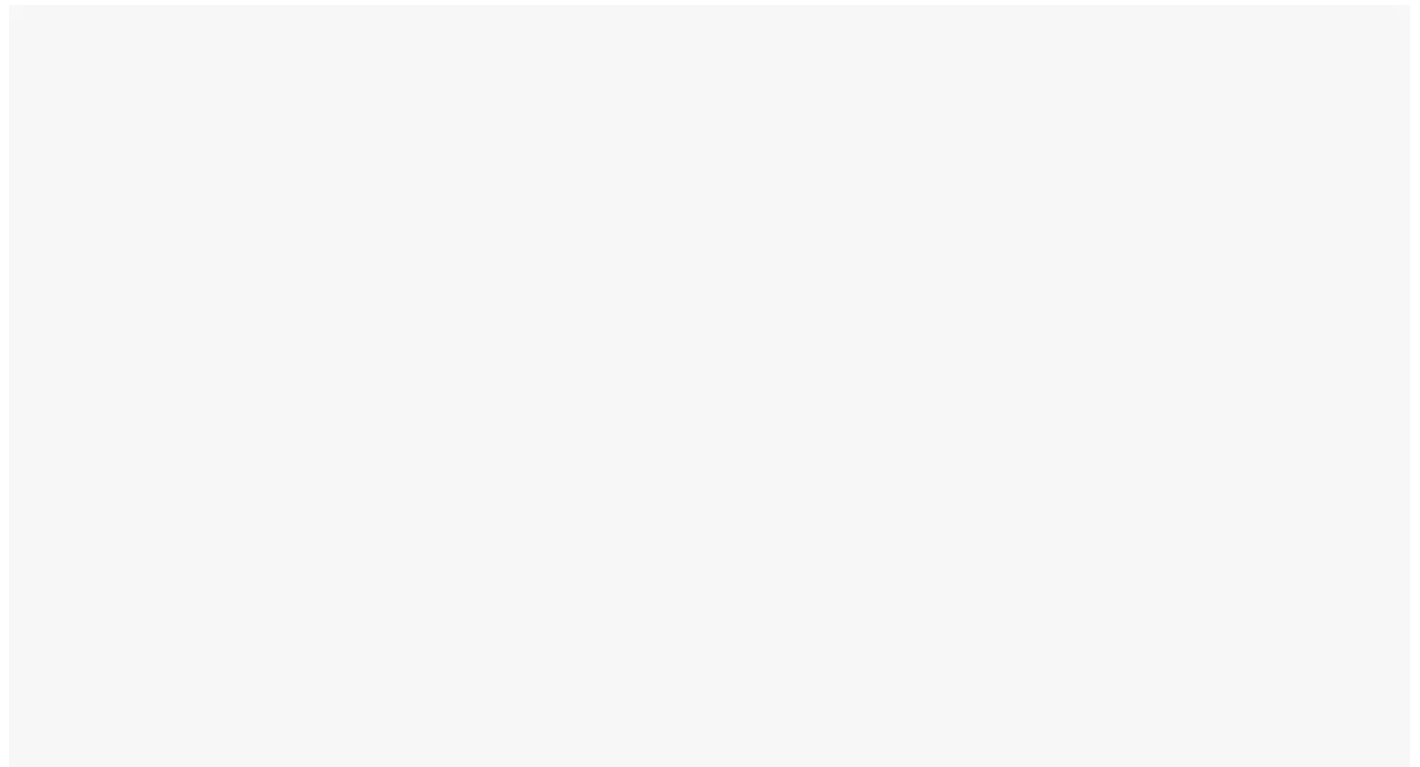
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Abductors kill ex-militant's brother, driver



by **Mike Odiegwu** — January 2, 2019 in News, News Update

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ENTERTAINMENT ▾ MAGAZINE ▾ EDUCATION ▾ ONLINE SPECIAL



A former ex-militant leader, Africanus Ukparsia, and his family spent the Yuletide in agony, The Nation learnt yesterday.

Ukparsia, known in the creeks as General Africa, was said to have buried his younger brother, Godgift Lagos and his (Lagos') driver, Christopher Etima, during the festivities.

It was gathered that the duo were killed in painful circumstances at Onuebum in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. They were shot dead by suspected kidnappers.

The deceased were reportedly sent by the ex-militant leader to hand over ransom to the abductors to free a victim. The hoodlums collected the ransom, but in an unexplained circumstance killed them.

The abducted victim was said to be a family member of an unnamed official of the Bayelsa State Government. The victim was abducted in Patani, Delta State and taken to the Onuebum creeks in Bayelsa.

Ukparsia took over the negotiation for the freedom of the victim.

Sources said the police were kept in the dark throughout the process.

"The ex-militant leader sent two persons and gave them a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) to go to Onuebum and deliver the ransom to the kidnappers. We don't know how much he agreed with the abductors.

"After waiting in vain for the arrival of the men, he called their phones, but none of them answered. He then informed the police, who tracked them to the area, only to find them in a pool of blood inside the vehicle. Right now the whereabouts of the kidnapped victim are unknown", a source, who spoke in confidence, said.

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Asinim, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said the police had launched a manhunt for the kidnappers.

He said: "On December 16, about 0100 hrs, Lagos Godgift, male and his driver, Christopher Etima, male, went to pay ransom to kidnappers at Onuoebum, but they were killed by the suspected abductors at Onuoebum.

"The scene was visited and the two bodies were deposited at FMC mortuary, Yenagoa. A black Toyota Sequoia Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) registered as LAGOS EKY 382 CZ was removed to Kolo Divisional Headquarters. The command has launched a manhunt for the kidnappers."

On December 22, Ukparasia and friends decided to bury the victims. First, they took the body of 35-year-old Christopher Etima, popularly called Biggie, to his hometown in Ikom, Cross River State. It was a solemn and tearful occasion. Crying and wailing filled the air as the body of the young man was brought to the community.

The Special Adviser to the Bayelsa State Governor on Oil and Gas/Conflict Resolution, Chief Tiwei Orunimighe and other high profile delegates from the state, including family of the former ex-militant leader were part of the funeral trip.

Oruminighe addressed the bereaved family. He was quoted to have said: "Even to us that are standing here, we still have a dead one to bury, the same father and mother to Africa. He died with Biggie the same day. His body is still in the mortuary.

"But we felt that since Biggie came from a far distance, we should handle his own matter first before we return to our son. I want to plead with you to keep holding yourselves together."

After the interment of Etima, Ukparasia and friends returned to handle the funeral of his brother. Lagos was buried at Azikoro Cemetery in Yenagoa. Ukparasia's friends, including Oruminighe and Caretaker Chairman of Brass, Victor Isaiah, were present at the funeral.

