

Gunmen behead lawmaker representing Soludo's constituency

• Anambra governor offers N10m for arrest of culprit

THE lawmaker representing Aguata II Constituency in the State House of Assembly, Hon Okechukwu Okoye, has been beheaded by suspected gunmen.

Okoye's head was found at Nnobi, in Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra State, where it was hanged.

His body was not there and indications were that the killers removed the body.

The statement government has condemned the incident and placed a N10 million reward for anyone or group that will avail valuable information that will lead to the immediate arrest of the perpetrators. According to a statement by the governor's Press Secretary, Christian Aburime: "Prof Chukwuma Charles Soludo; CFR, has received with shock and deep sadness the news of the gruesome murder of Hon. Okechukwu Okoye, member representing Aguata II Constituency at the State House of Assembly and his aide, Cyril Chiegboka. Both Hon Okoye and Cyril Chiegboka were kidnapped on the road by the heartless and barbaric murderers on 15th May.

"Gov Soludo condoles with his kinsmen of Isuofia, noting that it is probably the same criminal gang that attacked him and killed three policemen at Isuofia two years ago that are once again on the prowl. But they can never cow down Isuofia and Anambra State.

"Governor Soludo, still in shock over the barbaric acts against his two kinsmen, vowed that the perpetrators as well as all criminals operating in Anambra must be decisively brought to book.

Governor Soludo has consequently placed a N10 million reward for anyone or group that will avail valuable information that will lead to the immediate arrest of the perpetrators of this dastardly

Nwanosike Onu, Awka

act. Anambra will soon be a hell for these criminals, Gov Soludo assured.

"Governor Soludo wishes to reassure Ndi Anambra of government's resolve and renewed determination with the security agencies to go all out against the criminals and ensure they are brought to justice. Anambra will win against the forces of darkness."

The lawmaker, was kidnapped last week, alongside one other person in his Toyota Sienna car by unknown persons, heightening tension in the state.

The Nation gathered that the police later recovered the car and said that they had deployed operatives to rescue the lawmaker.

Soludo gave hope of rescuing the deceased while presenting the state's revised budget to the state lawmakers on Friday.

He informed them that their colleague who was representing him in the House of Assembly was still in the kidnappers' den.

"I regret that one of you, the member representing the good people of Aguata II Constituency in the House of Assembly (my own representative) - Hon. Okechukwu Okoye, is still in the custody of the kidnappers.

"The security agencies are working very hard and round the clock to secure his freedom. God is on the throne and Anambra will win. Let me leave it at that," the governor said at the House of Assembly.

However, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Ikenga Tochukwu, confirmed that the lawmaker had been killed.

He said, "His head was found along Nnobi Road today (Saturday). There is no suspect in custody yet" the PPRO said.