

# Gunmen kill pastor, abduct worshippers in Ogun

**G**UNMEN suspected to be kidnappers weekend killed a Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) Pastor and two locals in Ogun and Plateau states.

① The pastor was murdered at Abule-Ori, Obafemi Owode, Ogun State while he was conducting a vigil and seven worshippers abducted by the assailants.

② The Plateau State victims, The Nation gathered, were killed in a dawn attack on Saturday at Teng and Pwaskop communities, Pushit District of Mangu Local Government.

The Ogun assailants, it was gathered, stormed the church, Desires of Nations Parish, under Ogun Province 22, around 12am on Saturday, opening fire on the worshippers.

Confirming the incident, Commander, Ogun State So-Safe Corps, Sojo Ganzallo, in a statement yesterday by the agency's spokesman, Moruf Yusuf, said those kidnapped had been rescued and one of the gunmen killed.

He said the agency received a distress call about the attack at the church and stormed the

## • Two locals killed in Plateau

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place in collaboration with policemen.

Ganzallo said the other suspects escaped with bullet injuries, adding that officers of the corps were on the trail of the fleeing suspects.

In Plateau State, sources said the invaders were armed militias, adding that they fired several gunshots and burnt many properties.

A community leader, Moses John, told The Nation that the invaders killed the two victims in their homes.

A resident of Teng community Mrs Jeneth Bulus confirmed that the victims were killed while trying to escape out of their homes.

The Plateau State Police command's spokesman, Alfred Alabo, told The Nation he was yet to receive information on the attack promising to revert after speaking to the Divisional Police Officer in charge of the area.

In Imo State, gunmen also

kidnapped the owner of Johny Supermarket and Pharmacy, Chief John Ugorji around 11pm on Friday.

Ugorji was abducted as soon as he boarded his SUV to go home after closing at his pharmacy located on Ikenegbu Layout, Owerri.

Sources disclosed that Ugorji initially resisted the abduction which led to his captors shooting sporadically into the air.

A neighbourhood source said: "The incident happened between 10pm and 11pm as he emerged from his pharmacy and boarded his jeep to drive home. The kidnappers accosted him but he tried to flee.

"One tyre of his vehicle got stuck in the gutter. It was at this point they pulled him out of his vehicle, bundled him into theirs and zoomed off to unknown destination. They came in two vehicles and did not take his vehicle with them."

Another source close to his family disclosed that the kidnappers were yet to contact them as at Saturday evening.

"The abductors are yet to make any contact with his family members. Our prayer is that they spare his life and allow him to return home," the source said.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Henry Okoye, confirmed the incident, adding "On June 30, at about 0200hrs, a distress call was received from an eyewitness at Ikenegbu, Owerri Urban, that he saw armed men dragging a man out of his vehicle and taking him hostage.

"On receipt of this info, Operatives of the Anti-Kidnapping squad were swiftly marshalled to the scene. But unfortunately, the hoodlums had already escaped with the unsuspecting victim, highly suspected to be one John Ugorji, before the arrival of police operatives. A vehicle suspected to be that of the victim was recovered to the station.

"The victim's family is yet to make an official report to the police. However discreet investigation is ongoing for possible rescue of the kidnapped victim as well as the arrest of his kidnappers."

Dialogue with headlites won't work says Shibu Sani