

# Taraba deputy gov's mother kidnapped

## Kidnappers demand N300m ransom

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HAJIYA Belli Manu, mother of the Taraba State deputy governor, Alhaji Haruna Manu, was on Tuesday kidnapped by unknown gunmen at her hometown of Barkin Kasuwa area of Mutum Biyu town in Gasol Local Government Area of Taraba State.

The incident occurred at about 9.30 p.m. on Monday night when the gunmen invaded the family house, shooting sporadically and killing one person in the process.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Joseph said the command was working assiduously to ensure the victim was released unhurt.

Efforts to contact the deputy governor for comments proved abortive as his lines were not going through.

A family member who pleaded anonymity, told the *Nigerian Tribune* that "we were at home peacefully when we heard some gunshots and discovered that they were gunmen with the aim of kidnapping our

mother. They shot and killed someone in the house in the course of the sporadic shooting, before whisking mama away. It is a most unfortunate incident. At first we thought they were armed robbers."

Meanwhile, kidnappers of Hajia Belli Manu, on Tuesday night, contacted the family demanding a ransom of N300 million for her release.

According to family sources, the kidnappers made the contact on Tuesday evening to request for the ransom, but declined comments on whether or not they would pay the ransom.

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