

Gunmen kill driver, abduct Guardian newspaper reporter, 17 others in Delta

Ebenezer Adurokiya | Warri

SUSPECTED armed herdsmen have reportedly abducted a former chairman of the Federated Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Bayelsa State Council, Comrade Julius Osahon, and 17 others.

They were abducted late Monday, March 28, on the East-West road, by Ewreni community, in Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State.

Osahon, who hails from Edo State, is the Guardian newspaper correspondent in

Bayelsa State.

It was gathered that the gunmen also shot dead the driver of the vehicle they were travelling in before abducting the journalist and the other passengers.

It was learnt that the gunmen had established contact

with the journalist's wife, demanding N5 million ransom for his release.

A Warri-based lawyer, Mr Lucky Egboyi, who said he escaped the scene of the incident by the whiskers, told newsmen in Warri that they were returning from Bayelsa

State when they ran into the herdsmen operating on the road.

He disclosed that the herdsmen shot the driver in the head and kidnapped several passengers.

"It was a narrow escape for me and a few others because

we had to run into the bush.

"The policemen who came ran away with their van," the lawyer alleged.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Bright Edafe, however, said he was yet to be briefed about the incident.