

Gunmen kill ex-deputy rector, council information officer in Benue

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GUNMEN over the weekend killed two persons at Okpokwu and Ukum local government areas of Benue State.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the victims, a former deputy rector of the Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo in Okpokwu, identified as Oche, and Ephraim, a former

information officer of Ukum Local Government, were killed on Friday and Saturday.

The incident on Friday which claimed the life of Oche occurred when the gunmen, suspected to be kidnapers, ambushed his vehicle while he drove on the Otukpo-Enugu road with his wife.

Chairman of Okpokwu Local Government Area, Mrs Amina Audu, who confirmed

the incident to the Nigerian Tribune, said security operatives who promptly responded to the attack, were able to rescue the wife.

She said: "It was a case of kidnapping or armed robbery. It happened on Friday, and it was not up to 30 minutes that I drove along the spot when someone called me that they [gunmen] had killed a man who

was in a car with his wife and they kidnapped the woman.

"But security men who were alerted immediately swung to action and trailed the gunmen into the bush and rescued the woman.

The man killed was a former deputy rector of the Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo."

The second incident occurred on Saturday at Zaki Biam, headquarters of Ukum

council area when gunmen stormed the victim's house and shot him at close range.

The immediate past chairman of the council area, Steve Ayua, who appointed Ephraim as information officer, said the killers casually strolled into his house and shot him in the stomach.

Ayua said: "I appointed him [Ephraim] as the Information Officer of Ukum LGA,

but I don't know if the new chairman retained him or not. However, he was shot last night [Saturday] and was taken to a private hospital.

"Unfortunately, he didn't get prompt medical attention and eventually passed on."

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Catherine Anene, said she was yet to receive the information.