

# ② Policeman killed during rescue of abducted Edo customary court president

Idahosa Moses | Benin

THE kidnapped president of Igueben Area Customary Court in Edo State, Mrs Precious Aigbonoga, has been rescued by a combined team of police and military personnel.

Mrs Aigbonoga was last Monday kidnapped at Ugoneki town in Ugunwonde Local Government Area of the state while on her way to attend court sitting in Igueben.

Confirming the report, a family source who does not want his name in print told the **Nigerian Tribune** on

phone that Mrs Aigbonoga, who was rescued in the early hours of Thursday, was shot in the leg by her abductors.

The source said the customary court president had been taken to hospital for treatment.

The source said: "She was rescued by the military, but was shot by the kidnappers during the operation and she is receiving treatment in the hospital."

Also confirming the release, the Nigerian Bar Association, Benin branch, through its publicity secretary, Festus Osagie Usiobaifo, said: "The

executive committee of the Nigerian Bar Association, Benin branch is pleased to announce the release of the President of Igueben Area Customary Court, Precious Aigbonoga (Mrs).

"(Justice Aigbonoga) was rescued in the early hours of today [Thursday] following an attack launched against the kidnappers by the Special Anti-Kidnapping Squad attached to Police Headquarters, Benin-City.

"It was gathered that in the process of rescuing the victim, there was an exchange of heavy gunfire between the

police and bandits which led to one of the gallant police officers paying the ultimate price."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Chidi Nwanbuzor, confirmed the report.

He said the combined force of military and police rescued the abducted customary court president at a place called 'Scorpion Heel,' in Ugoneki forest, where she was held captive.

The police spokesperson, however, disclosed that during the rescue operation, a police officer was killed.