

② Kogi monarch dies in kidnappers' den

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THE traditional ruler of Aghara in Kabba-Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State, Chief David Obadofin, has died while still being held by his abductors.

The monarch was said to have passed on last Thursday, 12 days after he was kidnapped.

It was said he gave up the ghost when he could no longer withstand the torture of his captivity.

Another person abducted alongside with him, Temidayo Elewa, has, however, been set free.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that Elewa was freed at Obajana in Lokoja Local Government Area, from where family members picked her up on Saturday morning.

A source involved in the negotiation for the release confirmed the development.

It was gathered that when the abductors noticed that the monarch was becoming weak, they agreed to collect N2 million for the release of the two victims and started mounting pressure on the families for the payment.

Meanwhile, they blindfolded Elewa and kept her at a different location, but

by the time the ransom was paid, the monarch had died.

The kidnappers, aware that a search group consisting of hunters, vigilantes and some Fulani volunteers were closing in on them, they decided to set Elewa free.

She was said to have roamed the jungle alone from Thursday till Friday until she saw a saw machine operator who eventually showed her how to get to the nearest town.

It was reported that Elewa claimed members of the search party nabbed one of the suspects, although this could not be verified.

A member of the search team who did not want to be identified said, "We have seen the lady [Elewa] and taken her to the hospital.

"We picked her up in a village behind Obajana. As for Baba, we know he is dead but we are still combing the jungle for his body."

Obadofin, a major cashew farmer and Elewa, were abducted on Easter Monday from his farm residence in Aghara at about 11:00p.m.

The gunmen also shot one Mrs Toyin Onare, a widow who worked in the farm as labourer and she was confirmed dead at a hospital in Kabba where she was rushed to.