



# Gunmen abduct 70-year-old father of oil magnate, kill guard in Rivers

Ibanga Isine, Port Harcourt

**G**UNMEN on Thursday kidnapped Mr. Festus MacPepple, the 70-year-old father of the Chairman of Adamac Industries, Mr. Henry MacPepple, and killed his guard in Opobo, Rivers State.

Sources told our correspondent that the

gunmen, numbering over 15, stormed the island town at about 3.00am. They allegedly shot sporadically and detonated explosives suspected to be dynamites.

While the shootings and

explosions were going on, apparently to cause panic in the area, the gunmen invaded MacPepple's residence.

On arrival at the compound, they shot at MacPepple's personal guard, who tried to

stop them from entering the house and he died immediately.

A source said after the guard was felled, the gunmen started detonating dynamites to destroy doors and finally

gained entrance into the inner rooms of the compound.

They, however, found the old man in one of the rooms, dragged him out of the house and took him away.

Due to the intensity of the gunshots and explosions, a source from the community said the people of the island locked themselves inside their houses.

He said throughout the attack, nobody was able to come out and challenge the rampaging gunmen, even when their captive was being taken away.

He said, "The shooting was too much that nobody dared to come out. People were so scared and thought that militants had invaded the island.

"It was not until this morning (Thursday) that people came to hear that the shooting took place in MacPepple's yard and that the old man had been taken away."

Our correspondent reported that no group had claimed responsibility for the attack.

It was not also clear whether any demand for ransom had been made to the family of the MacPepples.

When contacted on the telephone, the Joint Task Force Operation Flush Out III spokesman, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa, confirmed the attack.



•L-R: Chief Executive Officer, Terra Kulture, Mrs. Bolanle Austen-Peters; Proprietress, The Kings School, Mrs. Victoria Tandoh, and Director-General, National Gallery of Art, Dr. Joe Musa, during a children's art competition organised by the Kings School in Lagos... on Tuesday. Photo: Segun Bakare.

## Rights group condemns invasion of Bakassi

out what actually happened