

Body of kidnapped doctor dumped by roadside

Chukwudi Akasike, Uyo

THE lifeless body of a medical doctor, who was kidnapped by unknown gunmen last week, has been allegedly dumped by the roadside in front of the Akwa Ibom State Secretariat by his abductors.

The doctor, who was identified as Justin Edet, was said to have been held hostage by his abductors for six days while negotiation went on over the amount that would be paid as ransom.

But Edet's family was shocked to have seen the corpse of their breadwinner by the side of the road, even after they had promised to pay N300,000 as ransom.

An eyewitness revealed that the medical doctor's abductors had demanded N5m as ransom, moments after seizing him.

According to the eyewitness, members of the family, had expressed their inability to provide the huge sum demanded by the kidnappers and only promised to provide N300,000.

"They were about providing the money when they saw the corpse of the man by the roadside. We are still shocked over this development," the eyewitness, who preferred not to be mentioned, said.

Confirming the incident on Sunday, the Commissioner of Police, Akwa Ibom State Command, Mr. Walter Rugbere, said the deceased's wife had

explained that the husband was ill before he was abducted.

He pointed out that there was no trace of any gunshot or sign of any injury on the deceased when the police checked Edet's body.

Rugbere said, "We learnt that

the body of the late medical doctor was dumped by the roadside somewhere and we did not notice any sign of gunshot or machete cut on the body of the deceased.

"It is surprising. There was also no sign of strangulation. But the wife of the man had already

told us he (the deceased) was ill before he was kidnapped. It is quite unfortunate."

He, however, assured that the police would continue with their investigation and apprehend those behind the abduction of the late medical doctor.

Gun attack on our operatives won't deter us -Waziri

Sola Fabiyi

CHAIRMAN of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Mrs. Farida Waziri, has said that the gun attack on some operatives of the agency would not deter the anti-graft agency from investigating and prosecuting the corrupt in the country.

Five EFCC operatives had come under gun attack on Friday along Mbano/Okigwe Road, Imo State while returning from the Federal High Court in Owerri, where the commission is prosecuting Chief Hubert Chikwe the husband of Nigeria's Ambassador to Ireland, Kema Chikwe, over alleged N40m fraud.

The gunmen killed one of the operatives, Eze Edoga, leaving others critically wounded.

Speaking with journalists on the attack on Sunday in Abuja, Waziri said, "It is with the deepest regret that, the commission lost one of its officers in the unfortunate incident.

Two other officials were critically injured in the attack and are currently receiving treatment in a hospital.

"In a manner typical of cowards, the officers were trailed from the court premises by the assailants who later opened fire on them along Okigwe Road. The matter has since been reported to the Nigeria Police for a thorough investigation."

She said that while the practice in the past had been to frustrate prosecution of cases in the courts by employing all manner of delay tactics, the new dimension of brute force and violence to kill and maim should be condemned by well-meaning Nigerians.

Waziri said, "It is important to alert the nation of the resolve of highly corrupt persons to scuttle the current reinvigorated fight against corruption in the country.

Only in November last year, a member of the board was brutally murdered in a bizarre and grotesque manner.

"It is hoped that through such illicit means, the commission will become scared and cases against perpetrators will be dropped."

She, however, assured Nigerians and the international community that the commission

was determined to bring to book all corrupt elements in the country, she said.

"While we pray that the soul of the departed rest in perfect peace and that the injured receive a very quick recovery, we wish to assure all Nigerians and indeed the international community that the resolve and determination of the commission to bring all corrupt elements in the country to justice can never be shaken by acts of intimidation and or blackmail.

"The fight against corruption is at the centre of our governance challenge as a country. We cannot therefore shirk away from such an important responsibility because of threats by the very people whose conduct has inflicted unimaginable damage on the economy and avoidable poverty on our people at large."

She, therefore, called on Nigerians to speak out against this dangerous development, saying that if the issue was not addressed, it might lead to a bigger problem.

She said, "A day should never come in this country when the looters of our treasury be the same people who dictate how our nation should be governed."