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Gunmen kill three, kidnap four expatriates in A' Ibom

By Kazeem Ibrahim

Sunday, 16 May 2010

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Mr. Ogonna Onovo

The spate of kidnapping continues in **Akwa Ibom State** as unknown **gunmen** on Friday, abducted four expatriates working with Stemco Construction Company in Essien Udim.

Three other persons including an army corporal, a policeman and a civilian, SUNDAY PUNCH gathered, lost their lives when the abductors raided the construction site where the expatriates were working.

Earlier the same day, unknown **gunmen** had abducted the mother of one of the governorship aspirants in the state, Chief Iniekang Udonwa.

Udonwa, who was also shot in the leg after he refused the kidnappers' entry to his Uyo residence, had been taken to an undisclosed hospital for treatment.

SUNDAY PUNCH gathered that the abductors were demanding N500m ransom before the elderly woman would be released.

Meanwhile, Stemco's officials who were abducted include its General Manager, Site Manager and two others.

They were working on the construction of a link-bridge before the unfortunate incident happened.

The kidnappers, who disguised as if they were heading for a burial ceremony, were said to have stormed the construction site with three vehicles loaded with arms.

When contacted, the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Walter Rigbere, confirmed the attack on the expatriates.

Rugbere also confirmed that one of the kidnappers was shot dead by the police and one was currently receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital.

He explained that a lot of arms were recovered from the kidnappers and the police had launched a manhunt for other fleeing members of the group.

Meanwhile, the state governor, Chief Godswill Akpabio, has condemned the spate of kidnapping of innocent citizens in the state.

Akpabio noted that in the last 48 hours, the state had been under the siege by criminal elements who attacked

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innocent citizens and especially expatriates working on the state government development projects.

In a statement on Saturday, the governor who particularly condemned the abduction of the septuagenarian mother of Udonwa, also expressed shock that there was a political dimension to most of the crimes.

He, however, warned politicians to desist from playing politics with people's lives and freedom.

"We condole with the families of officers and men who have lost their lives fighting the criminals that attack residents and expatriates in the State.

"We also sympathise with members of the public whose parents, brothers, sisters or children have been victims of these nefarious acts."

The governor urged members of the public to remain calm, noting that the protection of their lives and property would continue to remain a cardinal programme of his administration.

Comments :

- our able governor, please kindly use ur good office to bring these perpetrators to book, they are thwarting all ur good efforts and are making nonsense of the developmental strides u have achieved.

Posted by: paddy usen , on Monday, May 17, 2010

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