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Policeman shot dead as gunmen abduct parish priest

By Emmanuel Addeh

Wednesday, 18 May 2011

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Inspector General of Police, Hafiz Ringim

A policeman was on Monday shot dead by suspected gunmen in Ibusa, Delta State during the abduction of the Parish Priest of St Monica Catholic Church, Rev Fr Peter Chukwuma.

The police inspector, who was ostensibly killed to pave the way for the cleric's kidnap around Ibusa, Oshimili North Council Area of the state, was simply identified as Alexander.

The suspected kidnappers, who were said to have already demanded a ransom of N10m, whisked the cleric away along Achalla –

Ezekwu Road in Ibusa.

An eyewitness stated that the priest was trailed to the spot from Achalla where the abductors shot to the air sporadically to scare away residents.

The source said, "Two armed men were waiting at the spot just as two men on Okada were following his vehicle patiently. When the victim got to the spot? two of the hoodlums on foot were flashing their torch and shouting to their armed colleagues to identify the priest."

He added, "The culprits, in an attempt to escape with the priest, forced him into their own vehicle, demobilised his car and drove away to an unknown destination.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the state police command, Charles Muka, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, confirmed the kidnap,

He confirmed that the kidnappers had demanded a ransom of N10m before the priest would be released.

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