

# Kidnappers kill three cops, abduct traditional ruler

**Ozioma Ubabukoh, Enugu**

**S**uspected kidnappers have killed three policemen and abducted a traditional ruler in Enugu State.

The traditional ruler, Igwe Pius Uzochukwu, of Mgbidi community in Awgu Local Government Area, was abducted on Tuesday.

It was gathered that Uzochukwu, who had been on admission at the Eagle Hospital in Mmaku, Awgu LGA, ran into his abductors on his way home, having been discharged.

An eyewitness said the suspected kidnappers surrounded the royal father with two Toyota Camry cars when his vehicle slowed down to avoid a pothole.

She said, "The hoodlums forced the royal father into one of their cars and zoomed off to an unknown destination."

A relation of the abducted monarch said that the suspected kidnappers had not contacted anyone since the incident.

A source told our correspondent that the same suspects killed three policemen on the Enugu/Port-Harcourt Expressway the same day.

The deceased policemen were

reportedly escorting some people to an unknown destination when they were attacked.

The source said that the suspected kidnappers had wanted to abduct the people in the custody of the policemen but met a stiff resistance, a development that forced them to open fire on the escort vehicle, killing three policemen on the

## Minimum wage strike: Workers reject TUC chairman

**Emmanuel Obe, Awka**

**W**orkers in the service of the Anambra State have rejected Friday's purported suspension of the two-week old strike by the chairman of the Trade Union Congress in the state, Mr. Peter Okafor.

The chairman of the state's branch of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Mr. Patrick Obianyo, said Okafor had no power to unilaterally suspend the strike. He said the strike was called jointly by the NLC, the TUC and the Joint Negotiation Council.

He said, "It wasn't the TUC that called the strike. It is these three organisations that shall suspend or call off the strike when necessary.

spot.

When contacted, the Enugu State Police Commissioner, Danazumi Doma, confirmed the abduction of the traditional ruler and the murder of the policemen.

Doma said the command was on the trail of the kidnappers and was sure that the traditional ruler would be set free soon.

"Besides, we declared that should there be any need to suspend the strike, we shall do it at the rally ground where we meet every Tuesday."

Obianyo spoke after a meeting of labour leaders at the NLC office, which was attended by some members of the state executive committee of the TUC. Obianyo alleged that Okafor had a pathological habit of selling out each time workers declared a strike.

Okafor had at a news briefing in a hotel in Awka suspended the strike in what he called the overall interest of the state.

He directed members of the TUC to resume work on Monday.