

Thugs kill man, set corpse ablaze in Rivers

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Chukwudi Akasike and Friday Amobi

SUSPECTED political thugs on Monday set a middle-aged man popularly called Kpom-Kpom ablaze in Buguma, the headquarters of Asari-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Also, the mother of the Caretaker Committee Chairman of Asari-Toru Local Government Area, Rivers State, Soboma Jackrich, was kidnapped on Sunday by unknown gunmen.

Mrs. Ilamina Jackrich, 56, The 56-year-old was abducted at about 8.20am near the Obirikwere Bridge in Rumuosi in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of the state.

It was learnt that she was on her to attend a church service when she was abducted by four gunmen.

The Legal Adviser to the council chairman, Mr. Tabu Tamuno-Dike, who confirmed the abduction of Mrs. Jackrich, said her abductors were heavily armed.

One of our correspondents learnt that the killing of Kpom-Kpom said to be a supporter of the All Progressives Congress in Buguma sparked a free-for-all in Buguma.

Sources in Asari-Toru claimed the clash between the supporters of the APC and the Peoples Democratic Party, which followed the killing, caused panic in the area.

Kpom-Kpom, according to a source, was clubbed to death before his corpse was dragged by the hoodlums close to the Buguma New Hospital and set ablaze.

The source, who craved anonymity, said, "The killing of the man made the APC group to go on the rampage.

"There were gunshots and a man popularly known as Kpom-Kpom, who I think is an APC member, was killed and his body burnt. As I speak with you, there is tension in Burma in Buguma."

It was learnt that the incident had forced residents of Buguma to flee their homes to neighbouring communities to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Spokesman for the police in the state, Mr. Ahmad Muhammad, explained that though there was violence in the area, he had not been briefed on the issue.

He said, "There was breach of the peace on Monday in Buguma community. Peace has returned to the area due to the response of security operatives."

Mohammad also confirmed the abduction of council chairman's mother, saying the police had begun investigation into the case.

"She (Mrs. Jackrich) was kidnapped in the morning near Obirikwerre Bridge. We have since begun investigation into the matter with a view to rescuing her safely and apprehending those behind the crime," he said.

Meanwhile, the governorship candidate of the APC in the 2015 governorship election in the state, Dakuku Peterside, has condemned the gruesome murder of one Ofinijite Amachree, an APC leader in Buguma.

Peterside, who spoke in Port Harcourt on Monday, decried the "ongoing mass executions" in Rivers State, describing it as frightening and unprecedented.

"Amachree, who was burnt alive this morning by thugs believed to be members of the PDP, was first beaten to a pulp before he was set ablaze."

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