

# Gunmen abduct two in Bayelsa, kill one in Imo

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File Photo: Gunman

## **Simon Utebor and Chidiebube Okeoma**

Suspected gunmen have abducted a leader of the Peoples Democratic Party, Bayelsa State chapter, Mr. Bibi Oweifa, and a lecturer with the state-owned Niger Delta University, Amassoma, Dr. Ndutimi Dudafa.

While Oweifa was abducted in Yenagoa, the state capital, on Friday, Dudafa was taken hostage from his residence in Gbaraintoru, YELGA, at 8pm on Thursday.

It was learnt that Oweifa was abducted by gunmen dressed in military uniforms on the premises of the Bayelsa State Secretariat Annex 1 on Friday, a day before his planned defection to the All Progressives Congress.

The victim planned to defect to the APC alongside his supporters in an elaborate ceremony scheduled for Saturday.

Oweifa, who hails from Burmoundi in Ekpetiama clan, Yenagoa Local Government Area of the state, was whisked away around 3:30pm.

A source said the gunmen succeeded in capturing Oweifa after they forcibly entered the vehicle he was riding in with his personal assistant.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the gunmen overpowered Oweifa's PA and threw him out of the vehicle before whisking Oweifa away to an unknown destination.

He added that the abduction had created panic among family members as they had yet to hear from the abductors a day after the incident.

Also, an elder brother to Dudafa, Ineye Dudafa, confirmed the abduction, saying his abductors had yet to contact his family members.

He appealed to the kidnappers to release his brother unconditionally, adding that fear had gripped the family since the lecturer's abduction.

Ineye said, "We are passing through a traumatised period because of this unfortunate abduction of my brother. I appeal to the security agencies to do everything possible to get him released."

Efforts to get police confirmation were unsuccessful as calls made to the mobile of the spokesman for the state Police Command, Mr. Asinim Butswat, rang out several times.

Meanwhile, gunmen suspected to be robbers dressed in police uniforms have murdered one of the PDP youth leaders in Imo State, Chidi Eburuaja.

Eburuaja, until his death, was the party's youth leader in Owerre Nkworji, the political ward of a House of Representatives Committee Chairman on Banking and Currency, Jones Onyereri.

Owerre Nkworji is in the Nkwerre Local Government Area of the state. His kinsman, Emeka Njoku who confirmed Eburuaja's death, said the deceased drove to a nearby pharmacy to buy drugs for his ailing sister when he was ambushed by the gunman.

Njoku said, “Three armed men dressed in police uniforms stormed a bar at about 8:45pm. They tried to snatch a vehicle from the victim but they could not succeed and they shot him.

Eburuaja was first taken to Joint Hospital, Amaigbo, but was later transferred to UNTH Enugu where he died on Saturday morning.

*SUNDAY PUNCH* learnt that the gunmen later snatched a car without number plate to escape. All effort made to get the reaction of the spokesperson for the police in the state, Andrew Enwerem, were abortive.

Recall that few days ago, a leader of the All Progressives Congress in the state, Amos Akano, who hailed from the same Nkwerre council area, was kidnapped and murdered by gunmen.

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**Contact: [theeditor@punchng.com](mailto:theeditor@punchng.com)**