

# Gunmen pumped bullets into my two cousins, took their corpses away –Etete-Owoh

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Etete-Owoh, Andrew

*The Head of Owoh group of houses in Egwe Idake of Asarama in the Andoni Local Government Area, Rivers State, Chief Ephraim Etete-Owoh, speaks with SAMPSON ITODE about the death of two members of the family during the presidential and National Assembly elections in the state*

## ***Who were the deceased family members?***

They were Monwan Owoh-Etete and his elder brother, Andrew. They were my cousins.

## ***How did they die?***

Owoh-Etete went home for the election as he was the leader of Ward 9, Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. He was in the house in the village briefing party members when about 20 gunmen entered the house. They scattered everywhere and shot dead himself, the elder brother, Andrew, and one other person. He only wanted to vote like everyone else for his preferred candidates in the elections before the incident happened. Owoh-Etete was a politician, a party

leader, a good man, father of five and a pastor in the Greater Evangelism Church. Two of his children are still in the university.

***Did he suspect any danger before that day?***

There is no way I can know that. As I said, he only went for the elections like other Nigerians interested in the exercise. If you are a good Nigerian, there is no way you will not want to participate in electing leaders for your country.

***Were there no efforts to save their lives?***

When their assailants shot them, we gathered that they made sure they were dead by pumping more bullets into their bodies. They took their corpses away.

***Would you still participate in the next election despite what happened?***

***Monwan***

Except there is adequate security, many people definitely will be afraid to leave their homes to go and vote; there's no doubt about that. Nobody would want to die because of election.

***Apart from politics, what other things was he into?***

He studied Political Science but earlier earned a BA in English. He was studying for PhD at the Rivers State University and was about to defend his thesis before the attacks. Owoh-Etete was a two-term chairman of the Andoni LGA and also served as an adviser to the state governor, Nyesom Wike, before defecting to the All Progressives Congress last year.

***What was his dream?***

He desired to free Andoni people from political oppression as some politically lucky people in the community are enslaving the Andoni nation.

Owoh-Etete worked to deliver Andoni nation from the hands of a few people who have risen politically and don't want Andoni people to see the light. As they knew and understood his dreams, they planned his killing in order to oppress the people.

***How do you think the government can lessen the grief of the deceased's family?***

I don't know the government you are talking about. The government in Rivers State is controlled by the Peoples Democratic Party. But the government he was fighting for is the APC-led Federal Government. Like I said earlier, his children are still in school. It will be appreciated if the government can help the kids and the two widows of the two brothers.

We are calling on the Federal Government that, apart from assisting the deceased's families, it should also call for investigation into the killings to apprehend and prosecute those behind the dastardly act.

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