

Man Arrested For Kidnap, Murder Of Enugu Priest

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Enugu State Command of the Nigerian Police may have made a breakthrough in the kidnap and murder of Reverend Father Clement Rapuluchukwu Ugwu, with the arrest of a man working at his parish.

Fr. Ugwu was kidnapped on March 13, at his Parish, St. Mark's Catholic Church, Obinofia Ndiuno, Ezeagu LGA Enugu State and his decomposing body was discovered in a forest on Wednesday, March 20.

Daily Independent however gathered that the man who was arrested at the weekend

has been providing useful information to the police in their investigation.

A source who has been following the investigation of the crime told Daily Independent that the said man actually had a quarrel with the reverend father over missing church money.

In the course of the quarrel, the man threatened to deal with the reverend father.

Our source said it was under the prevailing circumstances that Fr. Ugwu was abducted and later killed by his abductors.

When our correspondent contacted Suleiman Balarabe, the Commissioner of Police, Enugu State, he confirmed that some arrests have been made and some of them were

people around the reverend father.

Balarabe said men of his command were going to Abuja to get technical aid for further investigation.

"Those arrested were people around him. Before the kidnap, there were series of communications around him. We are taking our findings to Abuja to get technical aid to investigate the communications around him," Balarabe said.

The Enugu State Police Command had last Thursday, said its men were on the trail of suspected kidnappers who killed the reverend father.

The Commissioner of Police said this while briefing journalists at the command's headquarters in Enugu.

Narrating how the Rever-

end father was killed, Balarabe disclosed that Fr. Ugwu was kidnapped on March 13, at his Parish, St. Mark's Catholic Church, Obinofia Ndiuno, Ezeagu LGA Enugu State and the police made serious efforts to rescue him but to no avail.

Balarabe regretted that the decomposing body of the Reverend father was discovered in a forest on Wednesday, March 20.

He, however, said the police had recovered some ATM cards belonging to the reverend father where they were abandoned by the kidnappers.

The Police boss said the police were on the trail of the kidnappers and closing in on their gang leader who hails from Oji River in Enugu State.