

Gunmen kidnap army officer, three others in Ondo • Protest in Imo over 22-year-old's kidnap, murder

Peter Dada and Chidiebube Okeoma

GUNMEN, on Tuesday, kidnapped four people on the Kabba-Auga Akoko Expressway in the Akoko North-East Local Government Area of Ondo State.

One of the victims is a Captain of the Nigerian Army, identified as D. Gana, who was said to be coming from Abuja with the other victims

when the incident happened.

According to a source, the hoodlums stopped the vehicle conveying the victims and dragged them into the bush and from there marched them to an unknown destination.

The source explained that the hoodlums did not pick any item belonging to the victims from the vehicle, but left the doors open.

It was, however, gathered that the abductors had contacted the families of the

victims to demand N20m for their release.

A source said immediately the police at the Ikare Akoko Division got information about the incident, they proceeded to the scene but met only the abandoned vehicle.

It was learnt that men of the 32 Artillery Brigade, Nigerian Army, Akure, mobilised to the area to comb the bush with a view to rescuing the victims and apprehending

the culprits.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr Tee-Leo Ikoro, confirmed that the incident happened on Tuesday.

He said the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Undie Adie, had ordered officers and men of the command to search the forest in a bid to rescue the victims as well as arrest the perpetrators.

"We have begun intensive investigation into the incident and we want to enjoin anybody with useful information that can lead to the arrest of the criminals to forward same to the police for onward action," Ikoro stated.

Also, the Public Relations Officer of the 32 Artillery Brigade, Nigerian Army, Akure, Captain Ayorinde Omojokun, simply said, "We are still on the matter."

In another development, youths took to the streets of Owerri, the Imo State capital, on Wednesday, in protest against the kidnap and murder of one Leo Micah Isiah, 22.

Adorned in black attires, the youth, who were the victim's friends, neighbours and secondary school mates,

marched through the streets and caused gridlock in the metropolis.

Guarded by armed policemen, the protesters demanded justice for Isiah,



• CoAS, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai

who was kidnapped in Imo State and murdered in Anambra State.

Our correspondent learnt that the deceased, who hailed from Bauchi State, was born and grew up in Imo State.

One of the protesters, who gave his name simply as David said, "We are here to demand justice for Leo Isiah, who was kidnapped in Imo State and murdered in Anambra State."

"We learnt that some security people were among those who kidnapped him, thinking that he was an Internet fraudster. He was killed for nothing. They pretended that they were taking him to their station."

"They killed him after stealing all the money in his accounts and making away with his vehicle. We are here to demand justice for him and his family, and for all Nigerian youths, who suffer humiliation and torture in the hands of corrupt and money-conscious security personnel."

A police source, who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said operatives of the Anti-Kidnapping Squad of the state police command had arrested four persons in connection

with the murder.

The source said the SASS Commander, Godfrey Victor, led operatives to Enugu, Anambra and Benue states and recovered the decomposing corpse of the victim, his car and phones.

The police spokesperson in the state, Orlando Ikeokwu, told PUNCH Metro that four suspects, including a soldier, had been arrested for allegedly killing Isiah.

Ikeokwu said the state Commissioner of Police, Bolaji Fafowura, had given an instruction that justice must be served.

According to him, the suspects will be paraded before journalists on Friday.

"We have arrested four suspects in connection with the murder. They will be paraded in two days time. The CP has ordered that justice must be served. There is no cause for alarm," Ikeokwu stated.

The father of the deceased told our correspondent on the telephone that he wanted justice for his son.

"I want justice. I want the police to dispense justice, but I am afraid that adjournments in the court may affect the outcome of the case," he said.

Imo man nabbed for impregnating 17-year-old daughter

Chidiebube Okeoma, Owerri

THE Imo State Police Command has arrested a 47-year-old man, Uchenna Egbuchulem, for allegedly impregnating his teenage daughter.

The spokesperson for the command, Orlando Ikeokwu, told PUNCH Metro on Wednesday in Owerri that the suspect would be charged with rape and incest.

According to him, Uchenna, who hails from Nduhu, Alaenyi Ogwa, Mbaitoli Local Government Area of the state, forcefully had carnal knowledge of his



daughter to the extent of getting her pregnant.

"The mother of the girl, who is a native of Ivory Coast, was said to have left the marriage and returned home when the girl was an infant."

"The father then began to take advantage of the victim. He was said to have forced her to bed by threatening to kill her with a machete."

"Investigation into the incident has since commenced and he will be charged accordingly."

Two to die for killing eight