

Gunmen shoot Benue village head's son dead over mother's whereabouts, kidnap sister



• Benue CP, Akingbola Olatunji

John Charles, Makurdi

GUNMEN on Monday invaded the residence of the clan head of Ikpomolokpo at Gege Ward in the Ado Local Government Area of Benue State, killing his son and abducting his daughter.

Sources told our correspondent that the gunmen stormed the community around 2am on Monday and headed for the house of the clan head.

"The incident happened around 2am today (Monday) when we heard gunshots from the residence of our clan head. But no one could come out," a resident said.

The Chairman of the council, James Oche, who confirmed the incident to our correspondent, said he received a distress call in the early hours of Monday.

"Some gunmen around 2am today entered the house of the clan head of Ipomoloko through a fence and asked for his wife from the son, Thompson.

"The young man told them that he did not know the whereabouts of his mother and they shot him dead; they took the sister away," the chairman said.

Oche said he immediately alerted troops of the *Operation Whirl Stroke*, adding that before they could get to the place, the gunmen had escaped to Atiga Forest around Okpokwu LGA.

"As I am talking to you now, the troops are on their trail," Oche said.

Efforts to get a reaction from the spokesman for *Operation Whirl Stroke*, Hussaini Audu, were not successful, as he claimed to be in a meeting.

Also, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Catherine Anene, did not take her calls which rang out.

FG order d'Ivoire

Oluwatosin Omojuyigbe and Adelani Adepegba

A 23-year-old woman, Itunu Babalola, who was wrongly incarcerated in Cote d'Ivoire, is dead.

Babalola died on Sunday after suffering from diabetes.

PUNCH Metro had reported that Babalola, a trader based in Bondoukou, Cote d'Ivoire, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment after a theft case she reported to the police was turned against her.

Our correspondent learnt that the victim had been in prison since 2019 after she refused to grant the request of a Divisional Police Officer to drop the case.

A journalist, David Hundeyin, who shared Babalola's story on