

Gunmen kill e-hailing driver, group demands security measures

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By Dennis Naku

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Gunmen have killed an e-hailing driver, Raphael Toby, in Rumuibiakani, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The victim's younger brother, Donald, confirmed the incident in a post on his *Facebook* page seen by our correspondent on Friday.

Donald, who stated that the incident occurred on Tuesday, said the gunmen went away with his brother's vehicle after killing him.

While sharing pictures of the deceased's vehicle on *Facebook*, he called on anyone with information about it to contact him and appealed to security agencies to bring the killers to justice.

Meanwhile, the Chairman, Rivers State Civil Society Organisation, Enefaa Georgewill, has advised all relevant regulators in the country to ensure that e-hailing drivers and their customers are protected.

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Georgewill stressed the need for e-hailing companies to link the bank accounts of customers to their apps and called for an investigation into the incident.

He stated, "For us, the death of Raphael Toby a few days ago is one death too many. We wish to also call on ride-hailing companies in Nigeria to implement a customer verification process to protect their drivers.

"Customers verification could simply be a bank account number verification from customers. We are simply saying every Bolt, Uber and other ride-hailing accounts should have at least one bank account of the customer linked to it."

The spokesperson for the state police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, said she would find out about the incident and get back to our correspondent.

Iringe-Koko, a Superintendent of Police, had yet to do so as of the time of filing this report on Friday.