

# Bayelsa community mourns as gunmen kidnap, murder chieftaincy candidate

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By Samuel Ese

Map of Bayelsa State

Agbere community in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State is in mourning over the kidnap and murder of Mr Clement Hamo, a candidate for the community's traditional stool.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered on Wednesday that Hamo was kidnapped on Christmas Day by some unknown people and his headless corpse was discovered on Tuesday at Ikpidiama community on the River Forcados.

A community source privy to the matter told our correspondent on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak with the media that following the kidnap, all efforts to discover his whereabouts proved abortive as no group claimed responsibility.

There was also no ransom demand making the community folk to allege that it could be connected to his aspirations to become the traditional ruler of the riverine community.

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Our correspondent reliably gathered that the victim was one of eight persons who were interviewed for the vacant stool of the community rulership with only two of them passing comfortably.

The source said: "He was kidnapped on Christmas Day and yesterday (New Year's Eve), the people of Ikpidiama community discovered the corpse with the head chopped off and informed the Agbere people.

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“They sent some youths to go and bring the corpse for burial. He was contesting to be the traditional ruler. Eight of them were interviewed and only two of them passed.

“He was a good man, who had been doing good from the beginning. I am sad and the community is in mourning over the development.”

Another source said there was no tension in the community following the death while another recounted how the late Hamo assisted in procuring sand for building purposes.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer of the Bayelsa State Police Command, Musa Mohammed, said he was aware of the incident and that investigations were ongoing.

“Yes, I am aware of the incident. Investigations are going on”, Mohammed stated.