

1 killed as gunmen abduct Taraba deputy governor's mother

From **Akinwale Ijanusi**, Jalingo

THE ugly wave of kidnappings yesterday swept through the homestead of the number- two citizen of Taraba State, Haruna Manu, when his mother, Hajia Beli Manu was kidnapped by unknown gunmen.

Daily Sun gathered that the incident occurred in Mutum-biyu, country home of the deputy governor, in Gassol local government of the state, at about 10:30 pm on Mon-

day.

Sources said a passerby, who tried to stand on the way of the kidnappers, was shot on the leg and was rushed to Cottage Hospital in Mutum-biyu for medical attention where he later died.

When contacted, Taraba state Police command's image maker, Joseph Kwaji (DSP), confirmed the incident to our correspondent and said full-scale operation has been launched for the rescue of the kidnapped mother of the deputy governor.

"Around 10:30pm on Monday, four armed men on two motorcycles stormed the family house of the deputy governor, and took away his mother. At the moment, operation is on-going towards rescuing the woman unhurt" Kwaji said.

The state police spokesman further said the state Commissioner of Police, Shaba Alkali, has temporarily relocated to the scene of the incident in Gassol local government area for proper co-ordination of the rescue operation.