

Gunmen kidnap 2 brothers, kill 1 in Bayelsa

From Femi Folaranmi, Yenagoa

ON the eve of the new year, Timipre Shally and his younger brother, Weri Shally were in their village, Ukubie, in Southern Ijaw Local Government area of Bayelsa State. They were with their kith and kin when tragedy struck. Trouble started when Shally sighted one of the suspects fingered in the kidnap of their father sometimes in August 2015 and confronted him. Tempers rose and a brawl ensued before people intervened and they went their separate ways.

Unknown to the Shally brothers, an incident that could alter their lives as the new year began was looming around the corner. At about 11.45 pm, nine boys armed with guns came and met the Shally brothers outside the house where they were cracking jokes with other boys from the community.

Investigations revealed that immediately the boys stormed the house with guns and other dangerous weapons, everybody scampered to safety. The Shally brothers also ran into the house to take cover. The elder Shally was dragged out and shot at close range. However, he did not die. The assailants who did not bother to hide their identity went back inside the house and seized his younger brother, Weri, dragged him and his unconscious brother to the waterside.

"On the night of December 31, some boys invaded our house with guns and shot my brother. I was abducted and taken to the waterside where I was beaten mercilessly. My brother was also brought in injured. I pleaded with them to take him to the hospital. We were put in a speed boat

blindfolded until we got to a place I later discovered was Lobia", a distraught Weri told *Saturday Sun*.

To cover their crime, the abductors could visit the hospital to treat Timipre's bullet wound. Instead, they sought for a massager to massage the wound.

"They were looking for a massager to massage his bullet wound since they could not go to the hospital. I pleaded that they should take him to the hospital but they ignored me. Instead they took us to a place where they left three people to guard us. I was crying as I watched my brother bleed to death. The boys guarding us were arguing among themselves if my brother was dead or not. At about 7am on January 1, he struggled with breath but finally died", Weri stated.

Later in the day, the main abductors returned and when they realised that Timipre was dead, they arranged to bury him while some of them wanted Weri to get killed also, so as to fully cover up their crime.

"At about 12pm, the abductors came back and took me and the body of my late brother into one of the boats and we went into the creeks. It was a fishing camp but deserted as people had travelled home for Christmas. I was kept in one of the houses. After a while, I complained that I was hungry. They ignored me and left for Lobia, leaving four people behind with me. We waited until 7pm, it was then I realised from their discussions that they had buried my brother somewhere in the area. They threatened to kill me but one of them pleaded that they should not. He said he was convinced that I would not expose them",

Weri narrated further.

Saturday Sun learnt that the abductors released Weri with a strict warning that he should not expose them because they would come after him.

"I was warned that I should not reveal their identities and the way, my brother died. They said I should say he was mistakenly hit with a stick".

However, Weri and his family, desperate for justice, reported the incident to the Police against the wish of some of the community chiefs. Weri who is lamenting that the family needs to bury Timipre in a proper way wants the Police to bring the killers to justice.

Mr Hedley Samuel, the uncle of the deceased believes the Police should go to Ukubiw and arrest all those who have been aiding and abetting suspected murderers in the community. "Things have been going on in the community and the chiefs have not been able to arrest the situation. We want justice and all the culprits should be brought to book", he stated.

In a petition sent to the Commissioner of Police by U. Saiyou on behalf of the father of the deceased, Mr Shally Torubele, they are demanding the arrest of those connected to the murder of Timipre.

The petition which gave an account of how Timipre died and those fingered in his murder said the suspects are the same people terrorising the waterways and creeks of Brass, Nembe and Southern Ijaw communities.

According to the petition, the Police should not spare the chiefs who are in the know of the



Timipre

activities of the suspects but chose to keep quiet because of personal benefits.

Sources close to the family told Saturday Sun that they are not impressed with the shoddy investigations by the Police and are set to take the matter to the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) in the zone.

The Police have however, denied any attempt to cover the case or sweep it under the carpet as it is a matter that relates to human life.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr Asinim Butswat told Saturday Sun that the transfer of the state Commissioner of Police affected the case as the new Commissioner has not assigned the petition sent in when Mr Nasiru Oki was commissioner.

"Yes we are aware of the case. There is no cover up. It was the former Commissioner of Police that received the petition. We have a new Commissioner and he has not treated the matter. Once he does, the petitioners would be invited. We are on top of the situation," he said.