

The kidnappers have demanded for N60 million ransom but the po-

## Chief priest

From **Tony Osauzo**, Benin

**THE** Chief Priest (Ohen-Ogba) of Aruogba community in Oredo Local Government area of Edo State, Pa Clifford Omosomwan, has been murdered.

His assailants reportedly gained access to his house through the window and shot him on the head twice at about 1am on Thursday.

Family sources said he was partially blind before he was killed.

It would be recalled that in January 2015, assistant head of the community, Goodluck Uwumahongie, was beheaded during a crisis in the community over sale of land.

Over 10 other members of the community lost their lives, while several houses, vehicles and motor cycles were set ablaze.

Uwumahongie's killers were said to have made away with his severed head which is yet to be found even though the victim had been buried long time ago.

At the time of this report, policemen

**HOT LINES: Do you have any in**

third day and nothing has happened.

## murdered

were said to have been drafted to the troubled Aruogba community, while the body of the slain priest was said to have been deposited at the Military Hospital

in Benin.

The State Police Command spokesman, DSP Abiodun Osifo, said he was yet to be briefed on the incident.

## APC chieftain shot dead

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

**GUNMEN** have killed an All Progressives Congress (APC) stalwart, Mr. Ipalibo Black-Duke, in Abonnema, Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Mr. Black-Duke, until his untimely death, was the APC leader in Ward 3, in Abonnema.

It was gathered that the victim was shot dead and his body taken away on Tuesday night, in his house by yet-to-be-identified gunmen.

Sources said joint efforts by security operatives in the area were in progress to recover the victim.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the State, Ahmad Muhammad, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), when contacted, said he was not aware of the death of the victim.

Muhammad said that he was aware of his abduction, adding that a person has been arrested in connection with Black-Duke's abduction.

He said: "I'm not aware of the death of the victim, but his abduction. A suspect, Dennis Ipalibo Black-Duke, is now undergoing interrogation in connection with the abduction".

**formation on crime? Call 08054682252 08109473658**

sorted to prayer section, begging God to intervene.

Army and other security agencies have taken over the area.

Banks and other business places were shut.

The crisis spread to neighbouring Ketu as business places including banks were also closed. At the Ilaje Street, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fatai Owoseni who was flanked by senior police officers including the Commander, Rapid Response Squad (RRS), Mr. Tunji Disu, told journalists that only three persons were killed.

He said: "I cannot confirm what I did not see. People said, many people were killed but I only saw three bodies. Three persons died, but we cannot quantify the damage now.

"What I am assuring you is that we have taken control of the situation. There is restriction or movement and we must maintain law and order," he said.

However, soldiers in the scene were seen searching passersby. Commuters were asked to keep their two hands up while passing the trouble spots.



• RRS co



• One of