

# Two brothers abduct, torture man to death

## ...For not having money in his account

By NGOZI UWUJARE

**NEMESIS** has caught up with two brothers, Lucky Christian Akpala and Meelubari Akpala, who conspired to abduct 45-year-old Stephen Arinze Chukwu and tortured him to death in September 2015.

The intent of the duo in kidnapping the hapless man was to withdraw money from his account with his Automated Teller Machine, ATM card and use it to pay off the debts owed by Lucky to a certain Letam Nuta.

Prior to the abduction, Lucky, 32, was the driver of one of Chukwu's commercial buses. Trouble started when he borrowed N15,000 from Nuta, but could not pay back. On a certain day, Nuta saw him driving the commercial bus and intercepted it. He took the bus to the office of the Area Commander at Bori, Rivers State and told Lucky to inform the owner of the bus.

"My late boss, Chukwu Stephen Arinze, was the owner of the commercial car I was driving. I had been us-

ing it for over one year. I borrowed N15000 from Letam Nuta. When Letam Nuta saw me he took possession of the car and took it Area Command Office, Bori," Lucky told *Sunday Sun*.

Finding himself in a fix, Lucky called his elder brother Meelubari, 39, to seek advice on what to do about the situation. Meelubari asked him if his employer had money and Lucky affirmed. Promptly they hatched an evil plan to abduct him.

To carry out their evil plan, Lucky placed a call to Chukwu, to inform him that the bus had been impounded and detained at the Bori Area Command, Rivers State and asked him to come and meet him there.

But before Chukwu got to Satpawa junction, Tai Local Government Area, LGA, Rivers State, Lucky and his brother kidnapped him and took him to the uncultivated farmland belonging of their friends, Barinuna Agbarator, at Gebene-ue community in Tai LGA, where they held him captive, tied his legs



•Suspects



•Arinze, victim

and took his ATM card. They tortured him over a period of two days to obtain the pin number of the card, hoping to withdraw a large amount from it. When they went to the bank to use the card, they discovered that Chukwu had little money in his account. In frustration,

they tortured him to death and then dumped his body in the river in the community and calmly went their way.

The Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Musa Usman Kimo told *Sunday Sun* that a member of Chukwu's family, Mrs. Angela Oni, after waiting for days without knowing Chukwu's whereabouts, went to the office of the Anti-Kidnapping Squad (AKS), headed by Supol Paul Obot on September 25, 2015, to report that he was missing.

The police launched an investigation, which eventually uncovered

the complicity of Lucky and Meelubari. They were arrested by AKS on December 23, 2015. Later, their accomplice, Barinuna Agbarator, 30, was also arrested.

Speaking with *Sunday Sun* reporter, Supol Obot said: "The two brothers who are the main suspects took us to the Gebene-ue River where they threw the deceased's body; we've not seen it so that the family can bury the corpse of their brother."

Kimo gave an assurance that the suspects would be charged to court.

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