

Body of murdered 92-old-year man fails to decompose in shallow grave

From Friday Agi, Port Harcourt

WHEN Elder Gilbert Orijii Nnadi from Obaji Town in Egi clan in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State was first kidnapped in 2010, and was rescued, many thought that was the last time the old man was going to be subjected to such horrendous and harrowing experience.

But that was not to be, as the bandits struck again, this time, more determined to ensure that he did not return home alive. His first abduction saw the kidnappers taking the great grandfather to a thick and dangerous forest in Ibaa, Emohua Local Government Area. But during his second travail, five years after his first ordeal, the kidnappers took him to a swampy area, Akobo creeks in Abua/Odual Local Government Area, where he was tortured, murdered and his body buried in a shallow grave.

A man, regarded as custodian of African proverbs and fondly called, Kwo-Akwo (unbailable River) by his admirers, Pa Nnadi was 92 years when he was first kidnapped in 2010.

Niger Delta Chronicle was told that it was sheer providence that he was rescued unhurt by the security agents, after 12 agonising days in captivity.

But five years later, on October 2015, when the hoodlums struck again, he was unlucky as he died in the abductors' den.

And to the surprise of many, three months after he his body was discovered in a shallow grave in February 2016, it not decompose up, a development many described as mysterious.

Recently, however, a funeral service was held at the popular Polo Club field, GRA, Port Harcourt, in his honour.

In his sermon, Pastor Timothy Eluaka of the Church of God, Salem, Nigeria, described Pa Nnadi's death in the hand of his abductors as a mystery, but warned people to turn away from their wicked ways.

"A day of reckoning awaits everybody over his/her actions on earth," he said.

He urged Nigerians to emulate late Elder Nnadi's virtues of selfless service, love, hard work, humility and kindness, as part of their contributions towards building a stable, prosperous and united Nigeria.

Instead of mourning, Nnadi's burial was turned into a carnival, as people, both from Nigeria and abroad, came to pay their last respect to the man they described as timeless hero and role model.

Those who spoke to Niger Delta Chronicle said Pa Nnadi paid the supreme sacrifice, in order to end kidnapping in the Niger Delta region.

He was given a posthumous award as the hero of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA by the International Association of World Peace Advocates, Rivers State chapter.

The patriarch left behind three wives, 16 children, 72 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, among others.

He was born on February, 26, 1923. With little formal education, he blazed trail in life to become an accomplished farmer, trader and tailor.