

Ex-gov Orji's aide shot dead in Imo

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I kidnapped my boss' son as payback for his wickedness –Suspect

From **George Onyejiuwa**, Owerri and Christopher Orji, Lagos

Former aide to the immediate past governor of Abia State, Chief Ben Onyechere was killed at the weekend in Owerri, Imo State capital.

Daily Sun reliably gathered that the deceased was shot dead on Sunday evening by gunmen at the popular Maris Junction at Ikengbu layout in Owerri where he had gone to shop.

It was learnt that the gunmen, numbering about five had reportedly trailed their victim and caught up with him at the popular junction at about 8pm.

According to an eyewitness, the gunmen, who had overtaken the deceased' car dragged down his driver and when he resisted, the gunmen shot him in his legs, which instantly disabled him, after which they forcefully dragged the deceased into their own car and sped off.

Onyechere was later discovered dead in the pool of his blood yesterday morning, few metres away from Maris Junction from where he was initially abducted.

However, when contacted, the spokesman of Imo State police command, Mr. Andrew Enwerem (DSP), who confirmed the incident, said the identity of the deceased was not known to the police as none of the family members had reported to the police.

He further disclosed that police had been alerted to the shooting incident at Maris Junction at Ikenegbu and that investigation was on to find out the identity of the victim.

In another development, a 23-year-old man, simply called Chimobi, who is in police net for kidnapping his boss' son, has confessed he did it as "payback for the man's wickedness."

The suspect and his alleged accomplice, Emmanuel, are being interrogated by operatives at the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of Lagos State Police Command.

The suspect were alleged to have abducted 10-year-old Emeka at the Orile area of the state last week Monday.

Chimobi, who was paraded with his accomplice, Emmanuel said: "Yes, I am the mastermind of the kidnapped boy. I recruited Emmanuel. I did all I did as a payback for my masters' wickedness. My former boss is very wicked.

"I was learning how to sell used clothes from him. He promised to settle me after appreniship. I started my tutelage in 2013, but he started counting for me from 2014.

"I was not bothered, as he promised my parents, that I would not regret learning trade from him. Today, I am in pains because, when I completed after my apprenticeship, rather than settle me, my boss opened another shop and asked me to man it and deliver N20,000 weekly.

"As I could not make it because of the economic recession, he sent me packing and I have to return to the village. Well, Emmanuel told me to come over to Lagos, where her got me a job in a hotel. It was while I was working in the hotel that the idea came on how to payback my boss. I now invited Emmanuel. I laid ambush for my boss' 10-year-old child, on his way to the school. I succeeded and I kept him in the room in the hotel management gave me.