

New

Sergeant disappears

... Five months after,
family petitions IGP, govs

From **Chuks Onuoha**,
Umuahia

AN Abia State-born police sergeant, Daniel Nwankwo, who was serving at the anti-kidnapping unit of Akwa Ibom State Police Command, Uyo, Akwa Ibom, has not been seen since he went for an official duty with three other officers.

While the other officers returned, Nwankwo, who left the command on April 21, 2017, for the assignment, has not returned.

The family said it heard about his disappearance from a post in the social media by one David Ekeng, who announced his obituary. The family also claimed that efforts to get an official response from the police on the matter have not yielded any fruit as neither the Inspector-General of Police nor the Akwa Ibom State Police Commissioner has replied their letter of inquiry over the matter.

Nwankwo, with force number 424092, was from the family of late Jeremiah Nwankwo of Umuagbara compound, Umuoguji village, Abala Autonomous Community of Obingwa LGA, Abia State.

The family has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to intervene and the Nigeria Police to unravel the mystery behind the disappearance of their 33-year-old son.

The Nwankwos also called on the National Assembly, the governors of Akwa Ibom and Abia states, the Nigerian Bar Association, civil society groups, the Nigerian Union of Journalists and the public to help solve the puzzle.

In a statement signed by Evangelist Nwankwo M. Chukwue-meka, Daniel's elder brother, the family stated that Nwankwo was last seen on April 21, 2017, before leaving with three other officers for Obot Ndom community, where they were sent to arrest a crime kingpin.

"While the three other police officers returned from the trip, Nwankwo did not come back. While the police tried to hide the incident from us, we got to know about it through a social media post by one David Ekeng, who announced his death on Saturday, April 22, 2017, a day after he went for the assignment. Since then, the family has made efforts to confirm the rumour through writing several letters to Akwa Ibom State Police Commissioner and the IGP, without getting any response," the statement said.