

Young girls rescued from traffickers by the police in Lagos, recently.

## Lecturer shot dead in Owerri

By Ben Okezie

**A RETIRED** lecturer who worked with the Federal Polytechnics, Nekede, Imo State, was shot dead yesterday in his farm.

Mr. Chris Obioma Chikwendu, 60, was shot at close range by the gunmen.

He had gone to inspect his farm when some persons in military uniform accosted him and tried to abduct him, but he resisted and tried to escape.

The assailants, who were bent at killing him, shot him in the leg and decided to punish him, using the butt of their guns to hit him severally on the head.

It was gathered that, after ascertaining that he would not survive the attack, the attackers took to their heels and left him to bleed to death.

A police source said his body has been recovered and deposited at the FMC Mortuary, Owerri.

The police source said, "We

can't say who shot the man. A family source said those who killed him were in military uniforms. We can't say who exactly did this, but we can't narrow our investigation to just murder. We are spreading our dragnet. We can't say it is kidnapping. If they were kidnappers, they wouldn't have killed him. We are investigating whether he recognised his attackers. They may be assassins or anything, so we are leaving our investigation open. All I can say is that we will get to the root of the matter and fish out the killers."

His younger brother, Mr. Ago Chikwendu, also a lecturer, confirmed the incident, describing it as unfortunate.

A senior police officer who spoke on the condition of anonymity said the police have stepped up a manhunt of the hoodlums, promising to bring the perpetrators to book.

## Kaduna cleric

From Sola Ojo, Ka

**THE** abducted wife of Kaduna pastor, Rev. Hosea Mrs. Talatu Akuchi, has freedom from her abduction after, a family source said, she was released. *Daily Sun* on Sunday.

Her liberty came after a ransom of N500,000 was paid by her family. She was released from an undisclosed spot in Kaduna on Saturday night, the source said.

Akuchi, who until her abduction was the pastor in charge of the Baptist Church, Kaduna, was released by gunmen last Monday. She was in Kaduna in the presence of her four children and the killer was away with his wife.

"Our mother and sister, Talatu Akuchi, was released on Saturday night. She can't come to you now because she is in hospital and she is also on medication. I really appreciate your concern during the trying time."

## N'Delta militants threaten to