

Bandits gang rape pregnant woman to death

From **John Adams**,
Minna

A pregnant woman (name withheld) has been confirmed dead in Dnakundna village in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State after she was gangraped by bandits.

The diseased woman was among the numerous villagers who were fleeing the village following threats of attacks by the bandits as a result of their (villagers) inability to pay the N2 million levy imposed on them by the bandits to allow them harvest their farm produce.

The deceased family source, who spoke to Daily Sun in Minna, yesterday, said the latest incident occurred last Thursday morning, 24 hours to the expiration of an ultimatum said to have been given to the villagers by the bandits to pay the N2 million levy or risk a possible attack.

The villagers, especially women and children, in their numbers, decided to leave the village when they could not raise the N2 million levy, unknown to them that the bandits had already been informed of their mass exodus and decided to lay ambush.

The deceased mother of three was not lucky as she and her three children ran into the ambush, and was matched

into the bush, gangraped by seven of the bandits before abandoning her.

She was later picked up by the family members with bruises all over her body and rushed to the hospital where

she died on Friday night.

It was further gathered that scores of the villagers were abducted by the bandits during the invasion, even as the mass exodus continued with women and children leaving

the village.

Although it was reliably gathered the bandits group leaders, Dogo Jede and Jackbros, were said to have left the areas due to the recent joint security operations, their "Boys" are still within the communi-

ties unleashing terror on the people.

They have continued to levy the people from one village to another demanding huge sums of money as conditions to allow them to harvest their farm produce.

Thugs destroy Abe's secretariat in Rivers

From **Tony John**, Port
Harcourt

SUSPECTED political thugs have destroyed the Social Democratic Party (SDP) Secretariat in Nonwa Tai, Tai Local Government Area in Rivers State, which was due for commissioning yesterday, by the governorship candidate, Senator Magnus Abe.

The thugs, who, at the time of filing the report, could not be identified, executed the operation in the early hours of the day.

Spokesperson to the party's governorship candidate, Parry Benson, said, in a statement, that the several attacks would not deter Abe from campaigning in Rivers.

Benson said: "The several attacks and threats to life and property will not deter him from campaigning in Tai and other local government areas of the state."

He called on the state Commissioner of Police and other

security agencies to investigate the incident and bring an end to escalating political violence in the state.

Meanwhile, normalcy was later restored to the area, following the deployment of

tactical teams by the Commissioner of Police, Effiong Okon.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Grace Iringe-Koko, a Superintendent of Police (SP), de-

scribed the incident as a clash between different protesters.

She said the SDP secretariat was later commissioned after police had taken control of the venue and restored normalcy.

Late Martins-Ogbonna: Family cries out over pressure to settle out of court

By **Zika Bobby**

THE family of the late Abimbola Martins-Ogbonna who died in a fire incident allegedly instigated by her husband, Ikechukwu Daryl Ogbonna, popularly called IVD, has accused the police of cover-up, intimidation and attempt to force the family into a out-of-court settlement with Ogbonna and, also, drop charges against him.

The family also accused a retired commissioner of police (names withheld), who Ogbonna allegedly referred to as his 'godfather' in one of his statements, of being the one behind Ogbonna's latest antics. The family further claimed

that when Ogbonna bolted immediately after his wife was involved in the fire mishap, which eventually killed her, he was actually holed up in the former police boss's house.

The family also alleged that the police have changed Ogbonna's charges from 'manslaughter' to 'negligence', so as to make it easily bailable. Bimbo, as fondly called by family and friends, allegedly succumbed to the injuries she sustained in a fire incident on October 12 during a scuffle with the husband. She died three days later on October 15.

Speaking with newsmen in their Lagos home yesterday, the Martins said their

matriarch and mother of the deceased, Mrs. Comfort Martins, was, on December 24, 2022, arrested by the police on the orders of Ogbonna who, in a petition to the police, accused the old woman of stealing her \$20,000 when she came to his house.

Spokesperson for the family, Wisdom Martins, who was also arrested with Mrs. Comfort Martins, said it was not only unfortunate, but laughable that Ogbonna would come with such a ridiculous accusation. "It was all trumped up charges to intimidate the family and change the narrative.

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