

The traditional ruler of Otulu Community in Ezinihitte, Mbaïse Local Government Area of Imo State, Eze Joe Ochulor, has been murdered.

The monarch who was kidnapped by yet-to-be identified gunmen on Saturday morning was said to have been killed in the evening.

A source who spoke on condition of anonymity said yesterday that the monarch's body was found on the roadside at Mbutu community in the neighbouring Aboh Mbaïse Local Government Area on Saturday.

The source said, "The traditional ruler of Otulu community in Ezinihitte Mbaïse Local Government Area of Imo State has been killed. The lifeless body of the king was found on the roadside at

Gunmen kill abducted Imo monarch

Mbutu community in Aboh Mbaïse LGA on Saturday night. He was abducted from his palace on Saturday morning.

"There is fear everywhere. Villagers are afraid because the traditional ruler was taken from his home on Saturday morning only for his lifeless body to be found on the same Saturday. This is horrifying."

When contacted, the spokesperson for the police in the state, Henry Okoye, confirmed the killing of the monarch and assured all that the command would apprehend the suspects.

He said the state commissioner of police had declared a manhunt for the killers of

the traditional ruler.

Okoye said, "The story is true. It is an unfortunate circumstance, but the state Commissioner of Police has declared the suspects wanted. We are on the trail of the suspects and we are doing everything possible to close in on the suspects and bring them to book.

"The command is open to

anybody with useful information that will lead to the swift arrest of the suspects. We are assuring the public that this development is not above us. The CP is on top of the situation."

The abduction and killing of the traditional ruler came just few days after the ward chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party in the Ife/

Akpodim/Chokoneze Ward in the same Ezinihitte Mbaïse LGA, Chiedoziem Anyanwu, was assassinated in the presence of his wife.

The gunmen had arrived and demanded to see him.

Upon confirming that he was the one they were looking for, they shot him and confirmed that he was dead before they left the scene.

...as police arrest monarch, 17 others over kidnapping in Benue

Cephas Iorhemen
MAKURDI

Meanwhile, the Benue State Police Command has arrested a traditional ruler

where victims of kidnapping were rescued turned out to be the compound of a monarch, Chief Tule Nyam.

The statement by the PPRO read: "On 23/11/2023

raid the area and ensure that victims were rescued.

"On 25/11/2023 the police team stormed a hide-out where the two victims were rescued at the compound of Zaki Tule Nyam, a tax collector. The victims stated that they were held hostage and their families were given one week to source for 10 million naira