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Nigeria: Unknown Gunmen Assassinate Traditional Ruler

Francis Ugwoke

3 December 2008

Enugu — Residents of Enugu metropolis were yesterday thrown into mourning following the murder of the traditional ruler of Obe community in Nkanu West Council area of the state, HRH Igwe Uche Nwachime, by unknown gunmen.

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THISDAY also gathered that the younger brother of the Director-General of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Dr. Dora Akunyili, whose name was given as Edemobi, was kidnapped by hoodlums who are demanding a ransom before he could be released.

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Nwachime's remains were said to have been dumped at a refuse dump along the Enugu-Aba-Port Harcourt Express road after being murdered last weekend.

Sources said the traditional ruler was abducted from his hotel, MacRoyal Hotels, at Presidential Road, Independence Layout, Enugu on Saturday night by the gunmen who were armed with AK47 rifles.

It was gathered that when family members of the traditional ruler could not locate him, they decided to carry out a search during which his body was found at the refuse dump.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, confirmed the incident.

On Akunyili's brother, a family source told newsmen in Enugu that some gunmen kidnapped him on Monday and demanded the ransom for his release.

As at the time of going to press, where Edemobi was kidnapped could not be ascertained.

When newsmen visited No. 10B Savage Crescent, GRA, Enugu yesterday, where the captive was said to be running a non-governmental organisation (NGO), some members of staff of the NGO refused to comment on the issue. A member of the Anambra State House of Assembly, Hon Dimobi was recently kidnapped by gunmen who equally demanded N30 million ransom for his release.

Sources said the victim later regained his freedom after N5 million was given to the kidnappers.

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