

Suspected assassins kill traditional ruler

By Tser Vanger

MAKURDI—BARELY three days after a lecturer with the College of Education Katsina-Ala in Benue State was killed last Thursday by gunmen, a traditional ruler in Makurdi, the state capital, was last Sunday murdered by a 10-man gang of suspected hired assassins.

The district head of Asase, a suburb of Makurdi, Zaki Tyopev Abaa, was shot at close range by assailants who stormed his palace at the North Bank area of the town at about 5 pm.

Eyewitness account told *Vanguard* that the attackers, among whom was a female, did not take away anything before leaving the palace after accomplishing their mission.

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munity Court of Justice to issue an order declaring that no Nigerian court has jurisdiction to try him over alleged criminal offences committed by him outside the shores of Nigeria among other reliefs.

sion.

Vanguard further gathered that the deceased had earlier in the day got embroiled in a heated quarrel with one of his three wives and, out of annoyance, disclaimed the woman and her children for their alleged waywardness.

Angered by the father's pronouncement, the woman's children, all five of them girls, also dared the chief to carry out the threat with a warning that they would take their pound of flesh from him if he did that.

Vanguard was informed that less than two months ago, the slain chief had summoned a meeting of district heads under him and family members of the wife during which he told them of his plans to send away the wife and her children.

He was said to have been pacified by the council of chiefs who dissuaded him from taking the action.

Following his persistent demand on the wife to vacate his palace, the wife and her daughters finally packed out of the palace last Saturday, less than 24 hours before he was felled by bullets from the invaders.

Police public relations officer for the state command, Samuel Jinadu (ASP), confirmed the arrests of an unspecified number of suspects and said investigations had commenced.

Court stops govt from sacking LG chairman

LOKOJA—A Lokoja High Court has restrained the government from enforcing the state Assembly's resolution to sack the suspended chairman of Olamaboro local government council, Mr. David Adegebe.

Justice Nasiru Ajanah, who granted the application to that effect in Lokoja, ordered that the status quo be maintained pending the determination of the substantive suit.

Ajanah said he granted the application to forestall any adverse effect on the plaintiff, including "damages, which no monetary compensation would be able to assuage at the end of the day".