

# Rumpus in Delta over killing of ex-commissioner

By Austin Ogwuda

**A SABA—FORMER** Commissioner in the old Bendel State, Dr. Godwin Ekiyor, has been allegedly murdered by some armed youths in Patani, Delta State.

As a result of the killing, the family of the deceased has sent a petition to the state Police Commissioner calling for the arrest and prosecution of the suspect culprits that engaged in the dastardly act as well as the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), asking them to step into the matter and bring justice to bear.

The deceased, a lawyer by profession, survived by an aged mother, wife and many children, had prior to his death alerted the police through a letter he personally sent to the state Commissioner of Police dated 7th June, 2007 in which he said

that “on 31st May, 2007, I was attacked by some hoodlums at Patani and a report was promptly made to the police at the police station Patani”.

He stated in the last paragraph of that letter that “I am pleading with you (CP) to take over the investigation of this case as the suspects were with the police yesterday (6/6/07) but were released on bail, please help”, he concluded.

However, as fate would have it, the ex-commissioner died at University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) on the 3rd of July, whilst receiving treatment.

Angered by the sad development, the family members in the latest petition to the state Police Commissioner which was jointly signed by Messrs. Ebena Ekiyor and Joseph Ekiyor said, “we believe that the cause of his

death is due to complications arising from the beating he received from the armed youths/robbers (all names withheld).

“On the 31st of May, 2007”, the petition went on, “the late Barrister G.A. Ekiyor got information that some youths were trying to steal some heavy duty pipes from his property in Patani; in the process of trying to find out exactly what was happening in his property, some youths out of which seven of them were armed with cutlasses, swords and gun physically assaulted and dragged him on the ground and injured him”.

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Banawi Ishaku, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), denied any knowledge of the petition from the family.