

# Gunmen kill unionist

**EKET**—UNIDENTIFIED gunmen suspected to be hired assassins, on Friday night shot dead Chief Jeremiah Ubongette, President, Ibom Tipplers Association, at his residence in Eket, Akwa Ibom State.

Ubongette's widow, Imabong, said weekend in Eket that the assailants, who were four, arrived about 9 pm Friday armed with AK 47 assault rifles on two motorcycles and forced the security man to submission.

"They came into our sitting room while we were watching the network news on television and announced they were hired to kill my husband.

"We pleaded with them and they demanded a ransom of N2 million, to save his life.

"My husband said that he had some money in the house and brought out the brief case containing some money.

"Unfortunately, while the money was being counted, one of the suspects challenged his colleagues for negotiating with the family.

"While the argument ensued, they shot my husband several times and made away with the ransom money which was offered," she said.

Efforts to reach the Police proved abortive but a source said the corpse had been deposited at an unnamed hospital in Eket.