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Nigeria: Trial of Okirika Royal Father - Prosecution Witness Shot Dead

Vanguard (Lagos)**19 March 2008**

Posted to the web 19 March 2008

 George Onah
 Lagos

GUNMEN have shot dead a prosecution witness in the on-going trial of the Amayanabo of Koniju, Okrika, Captain Neimi Iyatta Oputibeya X, for alleged cultism, kidnapping, bunkering and brigandage.

Vanguard gathered that Prince Gemel Obom had until his death received series of death threats. He was killed on Sunday night less than 24 hours before he was scheduled to testify before the court. He was gunned down at Ogbogo, Okrika at about 8.30a.m. while in the company of his wife and mother in-law.

And yesterday, six gunmen in Port Harcourt abducted the wife of a member of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly, demanding N200 million ransom.

It was also learnt that the death threats against Prince Obonu, father of three, heightened after a cache of arms and ammunition, and secret pipe for bunkering were discovered at Okrika by the Joint Task Force last week. The arms and ammunition allegedly belonged to warlord Ateke Tom.

Accusing fingers were pointed at him for the discovery, alleging that he took the JTF to the place and was equally responsible for the startling revelations nailing the Okrika monarch after he was picked up and charged to court by the state government.

Confirming the incident, spokesman for the JTF, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa, told Vanguard on phone that he "heard about the killing" and that it was "a very sad development for a man like that to have been killed. It is very painful to us and not good for the system.

Meanwhile, six gunmen in Port Harcourt have abducted the wife of a member of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly demanding N200 million as ransom for the woman.

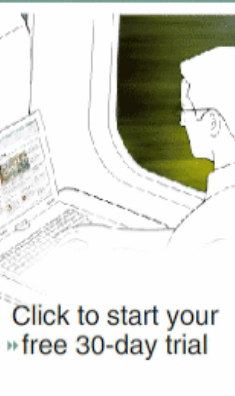
Vanouard gathered that the woman. Mrs.

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Vanguard reported that the woman, Mrs Dorothy Otele, was kidnapped yesterday at her business premises, a hairdressing salon at 91, Ada George Road, Port Harcourt.

It was learnt that the kidnappers, who were dressed in mobile police uniform, tricked her into believing that they were genuine security men after being told to accompany them to their station.

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