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Gunmen kidnap 9-yr-old, kill babysitter

Written by Jimitota Onoyume
Friday, 30 January 2009

PORT HARCOURT—Gunmen yesterday morning kidnapped a nine-year-old boy in Port Harcourt, shooting dead his babysitter who was taking him to school in the process.

Police spokesperson, Rita Abbey, confirmed the incident.



She said: "The boy was abducted when he was being taken to school this morning. The babysitter in company of the boy was shot dead in the process," she said, adding that no group has claimed responsibility for the attack and no ransom demand made yet.

She added that policemen "are at the scene of the incident for relevant information to help our investigation"

Also speaking on the incident, spokesman of the Joint Task Force in the state, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa told Vanguard on phone that security operatives made frantic efforts to rescue the victim when they were alerted, but added that he was aware that the babysitter was shot but could not confirm if she died from bullet wounds.

The father of the nine-year old boy, whose identity was not disclosed at press time is said to be an employee of an oil firm.

A security source told Vanguard that there were clear signs that the gunmen laid ambush for the child, and that the babysitter was shot probably because she resisted the kidnappers.

The kidnap and killing are coming on the heels of an earlier incident in which a Catholic priest, Rev Father Pius Kii was abducted, but has now been

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freed.

Celebrated writer and chairman of the Rivers State Scholarship Board, Elechi Amadi, 75, was the first person to be abducted this year.

Meanwhile, residents have urged militants behind the rising case of abductions in the state to have a rethink on the economic damage their act was doing to the state.

They said the actions of the militants had caused many parents to lose their jobs with firms in the state that had no choice but to move out of the state on security ground.

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