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Police yet to establish contact

Headlines Aug 17, 2009

Edochie's kidnappers demand N10m ransom

Vincent Ujumadu & Tony Edike

Anambra State Commissioner of Police, Mr Uzor Amakulor, has declared that his men had not established contact with the kidnappers, but had dispatched their men to cordon -off areas they suspected the kidnappers were likely to be holding Edochie hostage.

The kidnappers, who were said to be dressed in suits, but heavily armed, shot indiscriminately, killing three people who apparently wanted to prevent them from abducting the actor.

They (kidnappers), were said to have taken Edochie round Onitsha, and briefly stopped at a fast food joint, Crunchies, where they abducted two yet to be identified children who came to the place with their parents.

They also struck at Awada area of Onitsha, where they were said to have killed three persons in the process of their operation, bringing the number of the dead to six.

How Pete Edochie was kidnapped

Narrating how Pete Edochie was abducted, his personal assistant, Mr Peter Nwokike, who was one of the occupants of the vehicle, said the hoodlums rained bullets on the Jeep with which they were returning from Delta that fateful day.

He said that the kidnappers who were between 17 and 25, attacked Edochie and other occupants of his Jeep, which was riddled with bullets but nobody was killed in the attack.

He told reporters at Edozie's 27 Hillview Avenue, Independence Layout residence in Enugu that the kidnappers who were fully armed with machine guns, fired at their vehicle for about 30 minutes but Edochie, himself and two other occupants narrowly escaped being hit by the bullets.

Nwokike said: "We were coming from Onitsha-Ukwu in Delta State; on reaching Nkpor Junction, we saw a Jeep with machine gun overtake us, alongside one Anambra State bus "ANIDS Transport Scheme," one was at the back of our jeep and the other was in front and they started shooting; they shot for almost 30 minutes and finally dragged all of us out of the jeep into their own bus and drove-off.

"I don"t actually know if Chief was the target or whether we ran into them; but what happened was that they blindfolded us and took all of us out of the place to somewhere in Eziowelle. It was an untarred and very bad road; there they set us free and continued with chief (Edochie)

"We were four in the vehicle; chief, his manager, his in-law, the driver and myself. So we reported the incident at Idemili Police Station; there we met with the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) who sent out signals immediately.

"We later learnt he was taken to another state because we met a couple whose jeep was snatched and which was used to convey chief while the Anambra State mass transit bus was abandoned.

"Nobody was hurt but they shattered the vehicle with bullets. We came back in the night and reported to the family".

Meanwhile, reactions have trailed the kidnapping of the actor, with many people in the state expressing disgust over the development. A business man in Awka, Mr. Nweke Obiorah wondered why anybody should go after Pete Edochie who is working hard to earn a living.

According to him, it is regrettable that politicians who do less and get so much of the nation's resources should be walking the streets unmolested while people who worked hard to become what they are in the society should be living in fear.

He urged the federal and Anambra State government to ensure that the actor was not harmed in any way because he is a source of hapiness for many families.

KIDNAPPERS of Nollywood actor and former broadcaster, Chief Pete Edochie, have demanded N10 million ransom from the Edochie family, even as many people in Anambra State expressed bitterness over the kidnap of the popular actor.

Edochie was kidnapped on Sunday afternoon at Nkpor, a suburb of the commercial town of Onitsha and it was only about noon Monday that the family established contact with the kidnappers.



The place where the actor was kidnapped is only about 10 kilometers from Nteje, his home town in Oyi local government area of Anambra State.

A family source who pleaded anonomity told Vanguard Monday that the kidnappers initially demanded N50 million ransom, adding that when the family pleaded with them to come down, they then asked for N10 million.

According to the source, who said he and his other siblings have spoken with their kidnapped elder brother, Pete to ascertain his state of health, confirmed that he is hale and hearty.

He said that the family was still appealing to the kidnappers to bring down the ransom since they cannot raise the amount as Pete does not have such money to pat with, while they, on their part, cannot raise such an amount of money because they are mostly civil servants.

"Pete, as a Nollywood star, is only popular but not rich and therefore raising such amount will be too difficult for the family. We have been running around since Sunday evening when he was kidnapped to raise some money to secure his freedom, but it has not been easy" the source in the family said.

Anambra State Commissioner of Police, Mr Uzor Amakulor, also said yesterday that his men have not established contact with the kidnappers, but have dispatched their men to cordon-off areas they suspected the kidnappers were likely to be holding Edochie hostage.

Vanguard was informed that Edochie, holder of Officer of the Order of the Niger(OON), was kidnapped Sunday at Afor Nkpor, on the old Onitsha – Awka road while coming back from Asaba, Delta State.

The kidnappers, who were said to be dressed in suits, but heavily armed, shot indiscriminately, killing three people who apparently wanted to prevent them from abducting the actor.

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He urged the federal and Anambra State government to ensure that the actor was not harmed in any way because he is a source of hapiness for many families.

Mr. Amanchukwu Nwofor who is a civil servant noted that the latest incident came at a time the state was enjoying some peace after a period of fear following the incessant armed robbery and kidnapping and urged the new commissioner of police to do everything possible to make the people have confidence in the security system.



98 Responses for "Police yet to establish contact"

1. Chikelue fidelis says: August 17, 2009 at 9:21 pm

Pete of all people Naa waah oh! Pls they should not harm him at all

2. <u>Dr. Joseph</u> says: August 17, 2009 at 9:19 pm

I cry for Pete, a good Nigerian watched and loved in all parts of the world. Described as an intellect who can by manner of speech and personality, change acting into reality.

I plead to the kidnappers! PLEASE RELEASE PETE. You made a wrong choice. If you don't release him, the Igbo nation will never ever forgive you. Think of this!!! Thank you.

3. Justice says:

August 17, 2009 at 9:18 pm

If you say that the country is bad that is the reason why they are kidnapping then why don't you join them. then it might be your father they will kidnap next. A THIEF IS ALWAYS A THIEF. LEOPARD NEVR CHANGES IS SPOT.

4. <u>Dougy Fresh</u> says: August 17, 2009 at 9:16 pm

Is it only N10m they'll settle on? Y not add one mor zero to make it N100m? Unfortunate creatures! Imagine a man who's just popular,not dat he's dat rich. If he has such amount now y still act,if not 4 d fun of it n d interest of d p'ple? Is a guvnor, senator or an ambassador? ANOTHER BIG MISTAKE. KIDNAPPERS! Shame unto YOU!

5. *Umma* says:
August 17, 2009 at 9:02 pm

Let Pete go and live. Hoodlums are kidnaping the wrong person for God sake? If they have lion hearts, they should kidnap children of the big politicians, and indeed minister of defence, then we will knoe they are targetting the write people who are suppose to adjust the economy and give jobs to masses. Not Sir Pete Edochie, release him now !!!!

6. IYIDA IFEANYI says: August 17, 2009 at 8:53 pm

I think its high time this kidnappers shifted their intention towards our leaders who feel nonchalant attitudes towards this kidnapping issues. which a hell of a country is this. can gov do something about this? please i beg make u na no kill Pete Edochie for me

7. *meeche* says: August 17, 2009 at 8:46 pm

a beg make u people go and look for somthing doing, than to kidnapping,

is how we want to rule ourself in biafra,

what Pete have done wrong make u people take him, looking for money,

I dnt even think Pete have any much cash, talking of 10million.

where is security in Anambra state.

OBJ AND other our money, why u people dnt look after them.

shame to you people called kidnappers in ur home land, not even outside state Igbo land, to hell you stupid men

8. Iheme uzochi says: August 17, 2009 at 8:45 pm Pls release pete edochie pls i beg u. If kidnapping is the only thing u can do why not go direct 2 the house of assembly, senator's or even kidnapp musa.

9. <u>NDI MADU</u> says: August 17, 2009 at 8:45 pm

I disagree with the suggestion that these criminal act was as result of unemployment. Whetehr employment or unemployment a thief is a thief. The right word here is GREED. Many wanst to be rich without working for it. The likes of Bill Gate never wait for America to employ him before he found his empire.

The problem with our youths are that they are waiting for what the Government will do for them and not what they should do for the government. Kidnapping and armed robbery does not solve the problems of unemployment rather creates unemployment and even worst. The act of kidnapping is torrorising the life of innocent citziens. The act of kidbnapping is a total breach of peoples Human Rights and amount to harassement. There can never be any jsutification for kidnapping and Armed Robbery and waton destruction of peoples right to exist in peace and harmony.

No execuse whatsoever to exornerates anyone who kidnaps another human being.

10. Emeka Nduka says:
August 17, 2009 at 8:42 pm

Pls kidnapers should leave sir pee of all Nigerians if they care at all for the hapiness of people.

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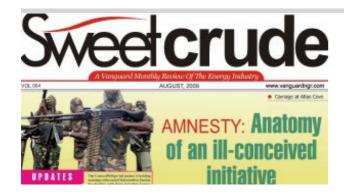
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