

# Suspected kidnappers kill lawyer in Imo

By Chidi Nkwopara

**O**WERRI—THE industrial community in Imo State has been thrown into deep mourning, following the abduction and murder of their colleague, Mr. Chijioke Iheaku, by a yet to be identified gang.

*Vanguard* investigations revealed that Iheaku, a lawyer and father of four boys, was kidnapped on 17 December 2009, as he was about leaving his plastic factory located on the Industrial Layout, Onitsha Road, Owerri.

The children left behind by

Iheaku, includes Subeudu, Nnajidekele, Chijioke and Nwaebube.

It was also gathered that the man and his driver were initially abducted but the driver was dropped off, while the victim's Honda car was abandoned at Nwaorieubi, Mbaitoli Local Government Area of the state.

## **Demand for ransom**

The hoodlums eventually got in touch with the victim's family and demanded N100 million ransom, but they later settled for N10 million.

Our Correspondent gathered that when the agreed sum was delivered to the hoodlums, Iheaku's relations were asked to go to the boot of a Camry car parked in Amiri community, Oru East Local Government Area and pick the remains of their loved one.

*Vanguard* was also told that no sooner than the aggrieved relations retrieved Iheaku's body, that the hoodlums stormed the venue and drove their Camry away.

All efforts made to reach the late industrialist's father, Mr. Godson Iheaku, an

Onitsha based businessman failed but it was, however, gathered that his son's remains would be interred in their country home, Umuakpata Na Ezeala Ofeke, Osina autonomous community, Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo State.

A reliable source in the State Police Headquarters, Owerri, revealed that "there was no visible sign that the deceased was shot by his kidnappers, leaving us with the suspicion that he must have been strangled or killed through another means."