

One feared dead, pastor abducted as gunmen invade church in Abia

By Eric Ugbor

ABA—A frontline politician from Abia State, Chief Lambert Nmecha, is feared dead after gunmen suspected to be kidnappers last Sunday invaded the Jerusalem For All Nation's Church, Umuneke, Ukwa West Local Government Area, where he had gone to worship.

The gunmen said to numbered about fifteen, who stormed the church that afternoon, also abducted the church pastor, David Kelechi a.k.a Christ Junior.

Chief Lambert Nmecha was said to have slumped when the kidnappers attacked the church and fired several shots at the pastor.

An eyewitness who worshipped in the church, told

Vanguard that several shots fired at the pastor refused to penetrate him.

The kidnappers, the sources said, used machete on the pastor and after several machete cuts couldn't penetrate the pastor, decided to abduct him.

The kidnappers, the source said, later bundled the pastor into one of his black jeeps and drove away, while shooting sporadically along the roads as they fled.

The source explained that the kidnappers emerged from no where immediately the pastor concluded Sunday sermon and shot into the church forcing the over 5000 worshippers to lie face down to avoid being hit by stray bullets.

The church was thrown into pandemonium during the attack, as some other worshippers scamped for safety.

The abducted pastor was said to have, during the at-

tack, told worshippers to be calm and allow the hoodlums have their way.

Many of the worshippers in the church were said to have ran for their dear lives after the pastor was taken away, while a few remained, praying fervently for his safety.

The police authorities in Aba confirmed the incident, but said they had yet to get a formal report.

They, however, said they were trailing the suspects.

Rights groups blame FG over spate of kidnappings in S-East

By Anayo Okoli

was attended by leaders of