

## NEWS

# Kidnapped herbalist killed

● *Negotiation in progress over abducted Catholic priest—Police*

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**E** NUGU — THE corpse of a herbalist, Rowland Iyida, who was kidnapped along with a Catholic priest, Rev. Father Chijioke Amoke, last weekend at Onitsha Enugu-Ezike, Igboeze North Local Government Area of Enugu State, was yesterday dumped inside the premises of the Anglican Church at Uda, Enugu-Ezike.

Sources close to his family revealed that neither the family nor friends were forthcoming with the ransom demanded by the kidnappers and having fed the deceased and the priest for one week the kid-

nappers probably decided to kill him. The fate of the Catholic priest was still unknown at press time.

The police recovered Iyida's corpse from the church premises yesterday morning and deposited it at Enugu-Ezike General Hospital mortuary.

Sources told *Vanguard* that the late Iyida popularly called *Ojenamuo*, meaning "one who visits the land of the spirit," was abducted by the kidnappers at Enugu-Ezike roundabout few minutes after the same gang abducted the Catholic priest.

They were escaping with the priest when they accosted *Ojenamuo* who was cruising in his Jeep with another friend and

immediately dragged him into their own vehicle, after shooting Iyida's friend on the leg and abandoned him.

The fleeing kidnappers later shot dead a police man and wounded another cop who attempted to intercept their vehicles and succeeded in taking the priest and *Ojenamuo* to their hideout. The wounded policeman is still receiving treatment in a hospital in Enugu.

The State Police Commissioner, Mr. Job Doma, yesterday confirmed that negotiation was still going on between the kidnappers and Fr. Amoke's family members, adding that *Ojenamuo*'s corpse had been deposited at Enugu-Ezike General Hospital morgue.