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Gunmen kill Delta varsity professor

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BY EMMA AMAIZE

KWALE—GUNMEN, Sunday night, killed an Associate Professor at the Delta State University, DELSU, Abraka, Professor Felix Okpilike at Isele-Ukwu junction, Ndokwa East Local Government Area of the state.

It was gathered that Okpilike, who travelled to the village to see his sick mother in company of his wife, was caught in a crossfire between warring Isele-Ukwu and Ibabu communities while returning to Abraka.

DELSU Vice Chancellor, Prof Eric Arubayi, confirmed to Vanguard, yesterday, that Okpilike was in line for full professorship, adding that his family members informed him of the sad development.

He described his death as a calamity, saying: "I am aware that he went to the village to see his sick mother. I saw him last Friday and we threw banters, not knowing he was going to die two days after. It is pathetic."

A source said: "Okpilike did not know that he was hit by bullets, as he drove his car even up to a place where the pellets lodged in his body were extracted, but he died thereafter while being taken to the hospital."

The Ndokwa Politcal Stakeholders Forum, NPSF, in a statement by the Secretary General, Mr. Oyibosochukwu Nwabueze, yesterday, condemned the brutal killing and called on Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan, Commissioner of Police and other security agencies to unravel the killing and bring perpetrators to book.

"NPSF calls for immediate deployment of security personnel to Isele-Ukwu junction to protect innocent people plying Asaba-Ughelli highway from further attack by gunmen at these communities, who have been in a senseless war," the group said.

It also urged the chairmen of Ndokwa East and Ndokwa West Local Government Areas to "intervene and quickly resolve the protracted land dispute between Isele-Ukwu and Ibabu communities, which had led to the destruction of several lives and property on both sides and also paralyzed commercial activities in the ancient Isele-Ukwu market."

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