

# EKU-SAPELE ROAD: Delta's highway of death

\* We've put measures in place – DSP Celestina Kalu, PPRO

By Perez Brisibe

**E**KU—THE Eku-Abraka road, one of the routes leading to the Abraka campus of the Delta State University, DELSU, Abraka in Delta State connects road users to Asaba, the state capital from Sapele and the Warri axis, but the upsurge in criminal activities lately on the road has left sour tales on the mouths of travelers, who ply the route.

## 4 killed, Sapele NUJ chair escapes death

Recounting how he narrowly escaped death in broad daylight on the road, chair, National Union of Journalists, NUJ, Mr. Andrew Ohwobetehe, said armed robbers, who mounted roadblock shot him on the face after riddling his car with bullets at about 3.30 pm.

According to Ohwobetehe, he ran into the robbers, who positioned themselves meters apart at three different locations by the last fuel station before Eku when coming from Abraka. He survived to tell the tale unlike several others that died in such attacks.

He told *Niger Delta Voice*, "When I was taken to the Eku Government Baptist hospital, I was told that four persons died as a result of the incident, including a couple coming behind me in a Prado Jeep. At the hospital, I saw a dead female



Inside the car of a victim killed by gunmen along the Eku-Abraka road

victim of the attack in a pool of her blood."

## Gunmen lay siege in broad daylight, kill 2

While the attack on the journalist occurred March 21, 20 gunmen, 18 days after, precisely April 8, at about 5:10 pm, laid siege to the road leading to the Eku Baptist Theological Center, as they randomly robbed and shot motorists and passersby.

According to a staff of the Eku Baptist Government Hospital, they rushed five persons, including a trader at the Eku Market and a male commercial motorcycle operator with various degrees of gunshot wounds for medical attention.

The gunmen dressed in camouflage with chains of bullets wrapped round their bodies killed two persons in the incident and allegedly abducted an unidentified member of the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC.

The deceased, both males in



The car of the Sapele NUJ chairman after he was attacked by robbers along the Eku-Abraka road

their early 30s sustained life threatening gunshot wounds and they later died the next day because of the injuries.

## ...Waylays mourners, rob them of N90,000

Two days after the attack, another bizarre robbery incident occurred along the Okerekpo axis of the Eku-Sapele road when a gang of armed robbers dispossessed passengers conveying the remains of their son, Efe Onosakpon, who died from gunshot wounds sustained from the April 8 robbery on the same road.

Occupants of the vehicle conveying the late Efe, drove into the hoodlums, who robbed them of N90,000 cash and other valuable items despite the presence of a corpse in the car.