

CrimeAlert

N-A-R-R-O-W E-S-C-A-P-E

As police rescue kidnap victim in Abia state

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A POPULAR hotelier, Onyema Ijeoma, who was abducted, last week, in Abia State, has been singing songs of praise to Almighty God after he was miraculously rescued by the Police. Ijeoma, the Director of Mbavilla Hotel, Aba, fell into the hands of three gun men operating with a motorcycle as he drove into his hotel.

The gun men reportedly ordered him into the back seat of his ash coloured Nissan Infinity SUV with plate number, GWA 807 DH and sped off while one of them drove the motorcycle.

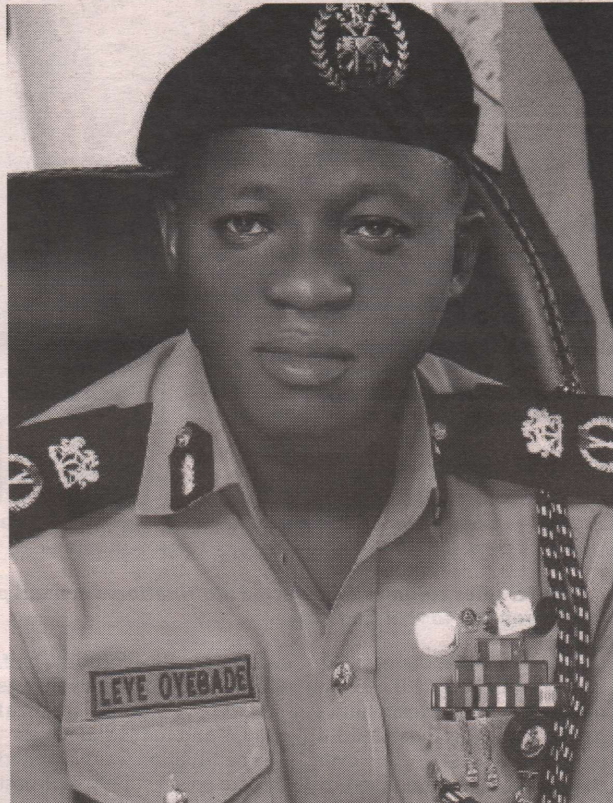
According to the hotelier who was later rescued by the Police from the kidnapper's hideout in Ovungwu community, Isiala Ngwa South council area, killing three kidnappers, "I was kidnapped at the gate of my hotel in Aba on July 18, 2017 at about 8.30pm. Three gunmen blocked my SUV and ordered me to enter the back seat and sped off. They continued to beat me with the butt of their guns until we got to an abandoned building. They dragged me down, chained my hands and legs and blindfolded me.

My ordeal: "One of them threatened to shoot me, but others held him. They said I would have to pay them a ransom of N10 million before my release. I told them I did

not have N10, 000 in my account, but they began to beat me. At about 4.00 am, the blindfold and ropes on my hands and legs fell off. The following day, at about 3.00 am, I begged them to remove the rope on my hands,

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because it was too tight. Within few minutes, there was heavy gunfire which hit two of the kidnappers. The other kidnapper who was on guard began to fire, but he was also shot dead. I knew it was the Police. I removed the ropes on my legs, came out, saw the Police and I told them I was



• Commissioner of Police -Abia State, Mr. Leye Oyeade.

the kidnap victim. They took me into their vehicle."

Abia CP confirms: Abia State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Leye Oyeade, who confirmed the incident, said the Police got information that an hotelier, Onyema Ijeoma was abducted by hoodlums and swooped into

action to rescue him at a hideout in Ovungwa community, Isiala Ngwa South council area. He urged residents of the State not to hesitate in reporting kidnapping cases to the Police. "People whose relatives were kidnapped are afraid that they will be killed

if they involve the Police. But this is not true. Families of kidnap victims should not hesitate to give information to the Police through our security numbers. We will process the information and rescue the victim. What the kidnappers do is to instil fear into their victim's relatives," he said.

Crime Alert gathered that one of the kidnappers escaped the scene, but was later arrested by the Police when he went to seek medical attention. Oyeade disclosed that one military-style AK 47 rifle with bayonet, double magazine and 10 rounds of live ammunition were later recovered during further combing the surrounding bushes of the kidnapping den.

Fleeing suspect dies in hospital: One of the kidnappers, identified as Charles, who reportedly escaped with bullet wounds during the rescue operation by the Police, was traced to the Abia State University Teaching Hospital, ABSUTH, Aba, where he sought medical attention.

Charles, who hails from Ezinihitte Mbaire council area of Imo State, later died on July 22, 2017, was earlier brought to the hospital by his brother identified as Obioma. The CP stated that the effort is in progress to take over the corpse as soon as investigations are concluded.

P-H-O-T-O S-P-E-A-K

The police in Enugu state, last week, addressed members of National Youth Service Corp, NYSC, posted to the state on security and safety. Pix; shows the police spokesman, Ebere Amarizu, addressing the members at their permanent orientation ground in Awgu, Enugu state.

