

Policeman, pastor killed in shootout with Ondo kidnappers

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE—A policeman and a Pastor/businessman, Oluwafemi Akomolafe, have been shot dead during a shootout between police detectives and suspected kidnappers along Ore Expressway, Ondo State.

The pastor's son, Timilehin, and two others, Michael Popoola and Henry Usifo, kidnapped after the shootout, have been rescued by Police detectives in the state in conjunction with village hunters.

Vanguard gathered that the late Akomolafe was taking his son Timilehin back to school in his car when he ran into the crossfire.

He reportedly died on the spot following the stray bullet that hit him, while the kidnappers took his son and the two other victims away.

Confirming this yesterday, the state Police Commissioner, Olugbenga Adeyanju, said the victims were rescued when detectives invaded the kidnappers' hideout, adding that no ransom was paid.

Adeyanju pointed out that the three victims, who were travelling from Port Harcourt were kidnapped while on their way to Lagos.

Narrating how they were kidnapped, Adeyanju said: "On November 24 at 3:45p.m., one Mr. Akomolafe was travelling from Akure to Lagos to drop his son, Timilehin at the University of Lagos.

"Unfortunately his jeep was intercepted by kidnappers and in the process, he was killed and his son was kidnapped.

"The jeep right behind his vehicle was equally shot and the mobile policeman lost his life but the driver was fast enough to escape to safety when policemen came to the scene firing and the kidnappers ran away.

"They took Timilehin and two other travellers, Popoola and Usifo, who were coming from Port Harcourt to Lagos in a commercial vehicle, and this

happened almost simultaneously," he said.

The commissioner said the kidnappers escaped with the gunshot wounds after a gun battle with policemen.

"The victims were, however,

rescued without any ransom paid after men of the Nigeria Police and local hunters combed the bush around Ore, where they intercepted the kidnappers, engaging in a gun battle with them, and

injuring one of them, who escaped in the process.

Adeyanju said no arrest was made but those rescued are volunteering useful information to help in the arrest of the kidnappers.

Physically-challenged kills, disposes of her newborn in Ughelli

By Perez Brisibe

UGHELLI—A physically challenged nursing mother was, Monday, arrested by policemen from the Ughelli 'B' Division for allegedly killing and discarding the remains of her newborn baby boy hours after giving birth at Ughelli, Delta State.

The nursing mother, simply identified as Elohor, who is in her mid-20s, resides with her mother and siblings at the Iwhrekpokpo axis of Ughelli.

Though Elohor's mother was not at home when she gave birth, Vanguard gathered that two of her siblings were in the house with her when she went into labour.

One of her neighbours, Efemena Obakpo, told Vanguard during a visit to the scene of the incident yesterday that "she had actually put to birth at home unassisted the previous day and it was the cry of the baby that attracted neighbours, who helped her cut off the placenta."

Giving details of how the incident occurred, Simon Ohwo, who witnessed the incident, said: "After the joy heralding the birth of the baby the previous day, well-wishers and neighbours had come to check on the newborn baby and mother only to discover that the baby was nowhere in sight.

"Upon interrogation, Elohor told them that the baby's father had taken the child away in the middle of the night when it was discovered that the baby was having difficulty in breathing."

Owho further explained that not comfortable with her story, one of the neighbours decided

to interrogate one of her siblings, who allegedly admitted that Elohor had forcefully given the baby hot water to drink after which she allegedly tied the nose and mouth of the baby in an attempt to suffocate the child.

"When she noticed that the child was dead, she put him in a sack, filled it up with refuse and plantain peels, then gave it to a mentally-challenged man roaming the area to help her discard it in the morning as refuse," Owho stated.

He said: "Following this revelation, a search was carried out on all the dump sites in the area only to actually discover the remains of the baby in the sack as disclosed by her sibling."

Confirming the incident, the Delta State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Andrew Aniamaka simply said: "There is a report to that effect at the 'B' Division Ughelli and it is subject of investigation."

However, further investigation by Vanguard revealed that Elohor has since



Elohor

been released by the Police owing to the inability of the police to keep her in custody as a result of her health condition.

A security source at the station, who confirmed her release to Vanguard, said: "She has not been totally let off the hook.

"One of the conditions for her release is that the family should take care of her and they should be reporting to the police station on weekly, while investigation lasts."

Pregnant woman, 5

By Daud Olatunji

ABEOKUTA—A pregnant woman and five others were reportedly killed, while two others sustained severe injuries, Tuesday night, when a granite-laden Volvo truck and a Nissan Bluebird car collided along Ajebo Road, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

The Public Relations Officer, Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps, TRACE, Babatunde Akinbiyi, said the Nissan Bluebird had number plates FD 638 EKY, while the Volvo truck had KJA 731 XP.

He said the casualties were all passengers in the Nissan Bluebird, including the driver