

## TRAVAILS OF OBEN GAS PLANT WORKER'S WIDOW:

# How kidnappers killed my husband after collecting ransom

...alleges in-laws using police to harass her over hubby's assets

By Alemma-Ozioruva Aliu,  
Benin-City

**W**HEN on May 11, 2016, Mr Stephen Igbayak Adimora, a staff member of the Nigerian Gas Company, was reportedly kidnapped at his place of work in Oben in Orhionmown local government area of Edo State, his wife, Judith, and other members of the family thought, as is the case oftentimes, that the kidnappers would ask for ransom and, if the family could raise the ransom, her husband would be released.

The kidnappers indeed asked for ransom.

But two months after when the ransom could not be raised in full, Adimora was killed leaving behind the wife, 45, and nine children made up of six from Judith and three others from other women.

The widow claimed some persons are bent on seeing her lose what is left of her husband's assets after selling most of them to raise the ransom money before her husband was killed.

Her six children are between the ages of 6 and 15.

Curiously, those she accused of trying to take her husband's remaining assets are the husband's family members.

"When the kidnappers established contact with me, they said that my husband gave them my telephone number. They demanded a very huge ransom from me before they would release him. I told his family what the kidnappers told me but they did nothing to save my husband. For a month, I went everywhere in search of money. I was able to pay part of what they demanded but I could not complete all, and they killed him", Judith said as she began to narrate her story.

"The kidnappers were calling me from

different directions along Boboroku road in Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State. Nobody was ready to help. I was sending borrowed money to them in bits sometimes around 1am.

"I would charter commercial motorcycle. I would not tell the motorcyclist that I was going to meet kidnappers. I had to risk my life on several occasions because of the love I had for my husband. I was able to send up to 30 percent of what they demanded within one month.

"I asked for more time but the kidnappers refused. After a little time I could no longer raise money anywhere again. About month of waiting to get more money from me and they did not get anything anymore, they called me one morning to say they had shot my husband dead. That was the last time they called me"

In between sobs, she said; "My husband left home for work on May 11, 2016, and never returned. He was kidnapped at his place of work that day and later killed by his captors because I could not pay in full the ransom the captors demanded.

"He was working with Nigeria Gas Company Nig Ltd, an arm of NNPC, Oben Gas Plant. That is how I have been suffering with my six children since that time. Sometimes the children go out

to scavenge in waste sites and sell them. At other times, they hawk sachet water on the streets. And sometimes I join them to hawk. And I borrow money and go to bush market to buy food items and sell before we can feed. It has been very tough for us since we lost our bread winner.

"I contemplated suicide many times because I and my children can no longer sleep with our two eyes closed as my in-laws and

creditors keep threatening us every now and then.

"Trouble comes every day from creditors who loaned me large sums of money which I handed to my husband's captors, yet they killed him. I don't know what to do now. I don't have anywhere to go. I need help. I cry day and night. Good spirited members of the public and government should come to our help and save us from these people.

"Those fighting me only want my husband's properties. They have caused me to be arrested several times. On one occasion, I was returning from the village market when policemen surrounded me, shouting 'this is the criminal'.

"I almost passed out at the sight of their guns as I thought another set of kidnappers were after me. They took me to Sapele Police Station and dumped me in the cell without telling me why I was arrested.

"The following day, they drove me to Zone 5, Benin City where I thought I would receive humane treatment but that did not happen. I was held for two days in the open passage and exposed to the hash whether condition of rain and cold before I was bailed.

"Respite came to me when I was finally brought before the AIG in whom I met a perfect gentleman in police uniform. There was nothing to suggest to me that the AIG had any interest in the matter except the performance of his official duties. He asked me to sit down when I stood up to address him and told me that in their culture they have great respect for women.

"Each time they arrest me, I would be

•Adimora.