

Alex Ekwueme varsity lecturer-turned taxi driver found dead in Ebonyi

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By Peter Okutu

THE lifeless body of a lecturer with the Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu Alike Ekwu, AE-FUNAI, identified as Kyrian Nwoke, was Monday discovered near the popular Rice Mill in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State capital with bullet wounds.

The deceased had reportedly gone to pick up some passengers with his private car, which he had converted to a taxi because of the non-payment of university lecturers by Federal Government for over six months.

He had registered the car with an online car-service to make ends meet and take care of his young wife and child.

It was gathered that he went missing Sunday after he reportedly picked up some passengers in Abakaliki while his car has not been found.

One of his colleagues took to his Facebook wall to mourn him. He blamed his death on the Federal Government's inability to pay lecturers in the country.

The friend said: "Kyrian Nwoke was a lecturer in the Physiology Department at Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu Alike, Nigeria. He was also a Ph.D student.

"As a result of the hardship occasioned by the prolonged ASUU strike and FG withholding of lecturers' salaries for over six months, he registered his car under the online taxi service to make ends meet.

"On Sunday, January 10, he was called to pick up customers



Late Kyrian Nwoke

at Udemezue Street and drop them at a popular eatery (names withheld) known for local delicacies at Ogoja Road,

Gunmen abduct poly lecturer in Rivers

By Davies
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PORT HARCOURT— A lecturer with Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic in Bori, Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State simply identified as Mr. James, was reportedly abducted, Tuesday, by unidentified gunmen.

Speaking on the abduction, yesterday, chairman of Academic Staff Union of Polytechnic, ASUP, Ken Saro-Polytechnic chapter, Prince Nwiyo, said James was kidnapped at his residence at Igwurutali, Ikwerre LGA of the state about 2am, Tuesday.

Nwiyo, who condemned the abduction, called for the unconditional release of the

Abakaliki.

"He never returned from that journey as his lifeless body with a bullet wound was discovered the next day near the Rice Mill, along the same Ogoja Road and his car missing.

"That is how Kyrian Nwoke's sunset on that faithful Sunday, leaving his wife a widow and his little daughter fatherless and AE-FUNAI bereft of a hardworking, upcoming Physiology scholar.

"But the security agents should do the needful and fish out the perpetrators of this dastardly act."

At press time, the Police spokesman in the state, Loveth Odah, could not be reached for comment.

victim.

He said: "The news of the kidnap of Mr. James came to us yesterday (Tuesday) as a shock. As a union, we are calling on the security agencies to take control of the situation and ensure a successful rescue of our colleague.

"The abductors are in the same vein advised to release him unconditionally without further delay. The union will not accept kidnap of any of its members, even after he is released. If after a while, he is not released, we are going to embark on a serious peaceful protest."

Meanwhile, calls and messages to the Public Relations Officer of the state Police Command, Nnamdi Omoni, at press time were not responded to.