

One killed as gunmen abduct Imo ex-speaker, 4 others

By Chinonso Alozie & Emmanuel Iheaka

OWERRI—IT was a harvest of kidnapping, weekend, in Imo State as gunmen reportedly kidnapped former Speaker, Imo State House of Assembly, Lawman Duruji; the wife of Frank Onwumere, an erstwhile Chairman of Okigwe Local Government Area of the state and a yet to be identified, traditional ruler.

The traditional ruler was allegedly kidnapped at Y-junction, Ubomiri in Mbaitoli Local Government Area of Imo State.

An eyewitness, who spoke to newsmen in Owerri, said the development took place at about 2 pm on Sunday.

The eyewitness said the kidnappers double-crossed the vehicle of the victim and as a result of the sporadic shooting one person was reportedly killed and about two persons injured.

According to him, "The kidnappers overtook the Range Rover of the

traditional ruler, forced him out of the car with a little child and drove towards Orlu axis.

"Many people while running got injured in the process. We were told that about two or three persons got bullet wounds. One person was reported dead."

It was also gathered that Onwumere's wife was said to have been kidnapped on Sunday, a source said Duruji was abducted on Saturday while returning from a function.

Also kidnapped is a businessman in Owerri, popularly known as Ezzybee. It was gathered that Ezzybee was abducted while going to watch a football match.

The gunmen were also said to have seized unidentified persons at Okwelle junction in Onuimo Local Government Area, Amaraku in Isiala Mbano L.G.A, as well as Ubomiri in Mbaitoli council area of the state.

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Michael Abattam, said the command was on the trail of the kidnappers, adding that the person who was kidnapped at Ubomiri had been rescued by the police.

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