

concealed in foodstuff plastic containers

the operatives, who stormed a

Thursday

# Suspected military personnel abduct, murder Benue tax official

## ● Mutilated body dumped by roadside

By Peter Duru

### YET-TO-BE-IDENTIFIED

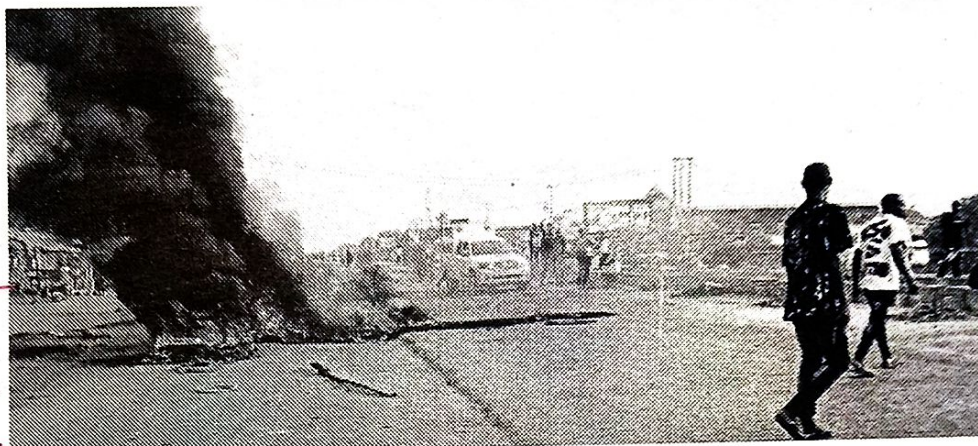
military personnel have allegedly abducted and murdered a tax collector and Senior Inspector of Taxes with the Benue State Internal Revenue Service, BIRS, Mr Terfa, Akure, in Makurdi.

Vanguard gathered the Akure was abducted from his duty post, Saturday night, at a gazetted BIRS Inspection point located close to the 'C' Division of the state Police Command in the North Bank area of Makurdi town.

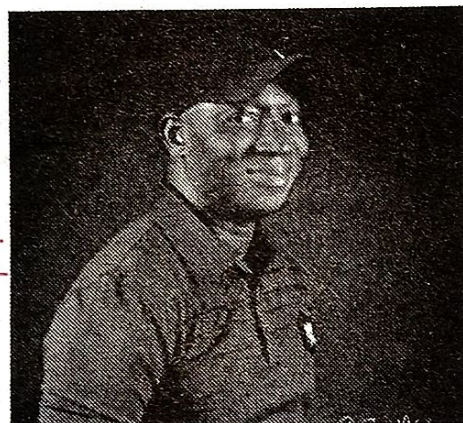
According to an eyewitness, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the suspected military personnel stormed the inspection point in a military van.

He said: "They came in a military vehicle, shouting and threatening to kill everyone and we all started running. But Mr Akure said he would not run because he was on legitimate duty and was sent to his duty post by the government.

"When they got to him, they started beating him up and took away his phone and the funds collected by the team on night duty. After that, they bundled him into their vehicle and took him away.



**The bonfire.**



**Late Akure.**

"We only saw his dead body Sunday morning (yesterday) at about 6 am dropped on the roadside at Yagba community close to the Ape Aku Housing Estate in North Bank of Makurdi."

Vanguard gathered that the discovery of Akure's corpse at Yagba, yesterday, sparked outrage and almost triggered a violent protest by members of the community but the quick intervention of Governor Samuel Ortom's Security Adviser, Colonel Paul Hemba (retd) and other top government functionaries, who were asked to take charge of the matter by the governor. They prevailed on the angry youths of the area who had already made a bonfire to jettison their plan to embark on the protest.

Meanwhile, a statement by the Executive Chairman of BIRS,

Mrs Mimi Adzape-Orubibi, in Makurdi confirmed the murder of her personnel.

Adzape-Orubibi expressed deep shock and pain over the gruesome murder of Akure.

Part of the statement read: "I have received with deep shock and pain, the sad news of the brutal murder of one of my staff, Sixtus Terfa Akure, who until his death was a Senior Inspector of Taxes.

"Unconfirmed sources indicate that the late Sixtus was whisked away last night (Saturday) by military personnel in what has become a regular occurrence, and his mangled body was found early hours of today (yesterday) around Ape Aku Estate by the roadside.

"I am deeply pained by his death. And the circumstances under which he died.

"I want to assure all staff of the service that we will leave no stone unturned in getting to the rock bottom of this matter. The perpetrators will be brought to justice no matter what it takes."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, who confirmed the murder of the tax official, said she was yet to receive information on the circumstances surrounding the murder.

"The corpse was evacuated by the Police but I am yet to receive details of the death," she said.

## Lafia students

released late Saturday.

The vice-chancellor of the university, Prof. Shehu Rahman, commended the Nasarawa State government and the general public for their support in ensuring the quick release of the students.

The students, according to the university authority, have undergone medical checks and are in good conditions to immediately resume their examinations.