

How heartless relative conspired with cultists to kill police officer in Rivers

By Davies Iheamnachor

ELIBRADA — MINDBOGGLING details of how a relative conspired with suspected cultists/kidnappers to abduct, kill and bury CSP Justice Azunda, a family member and Chief Protocol Officer to former Chief of Staff, Government House, Rivers State, Emeka Nwoke, after collecting a ransom of N10 million, have emerged.

How they abducted the victim

Events culminating in the shocking



• CSP Azunda's remains being carted away in a body bag after exhumation.

• Police kill 4 gangsters, arrest fleeing member; exhume CSP Azunda's remains

killing of the victim, a Chief Superintendent of Police, happened penultimate Saturday, when the gangsters stormed his family compound at Elibrada Community in Emohua Local Government of Rivers State.

However, the Police exhumed Azunda's body from a shallow grave, where the kidnappers buried him in a forest, killed four of the suspects and arrested one.

NDV gathered that the cultists, who had a deal with the relative of the

deceased, invaded the family compound immediately after the CSP arrived from Port-Harcourt, the state capital.

They shot him in the leg in the presence of relatives and whisked him away.

They collected over N10m ransom — Elder brother

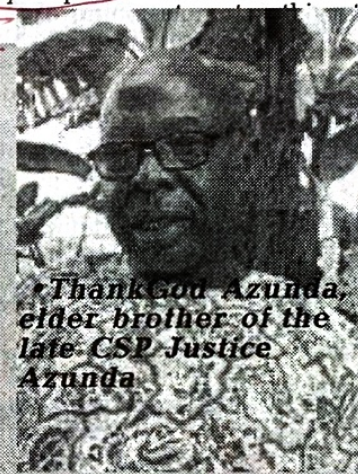
The elder brother of the victim, Mr. ThankGod Azunda, said, "The family Staff to the Governor did everything possible to free the victim, but the criminals took over N10 million paid to them, still killed and buried my brother."

"The reason I am commending the Chief of Staff is that he did everything to get Justice out of the net by paying so much money.

"They (criminals) deceived him. The love he has for my brother compelled him to do the things he would not have done. He paid so much, yet they still killed and buried him. He may have

spent more than N10 million to get him out alive."

"The justice we need now is for the government to bring that is involved in this matter to book. Government should



• ThankGod Azunda, elder brother of the late CSP Justice Azunda

deal with those involved in his death.

"They shot my brother, people were with him when the boys came. Some, in their rooms, also saw what happened through the window.

"This is not the first time they are operating in this area. They will hit elsewhere as an escape

route. When they are passing, they will scare people with gunshots. People know them.

It was like a movie

— Elder Ojah

An Elibrada community leader, Elder Miller Ojah, said the community emptied its treasury to ensure that Justice came out alive, but regretted the efforts turned out fruitless.

"The whole thing happened like a film, we were at home when the armed boys came. They shot and took him away. We thought they would release him later but when the community noticed that the kidnappers were unyielding, we went into the community purse and emptied it to ensure they release him.

"We heard they killed and buried him after police arrested one criminal. He took police there to bring his remains out."

Ojah noted that the people of Isiodu were not aware of the camp of criminals between Elibrada and Isiokpo communities.

LGA, Police intervene

The Emohua Local Government Council and the Rivers State Police Command swung into action days after and tracked the criminal gang to the Ogoloma community in Okirika local government, where security agents killed four of them.

A week after, police arrested a fleeing gang member who confessed they murdered Azunda, buried him in a shallow grave at a forest between the Elibrada community and Ogbodo village in Isiokpo, Ikwerre local government area.

The seized suspect took the chair of Emohua, Dr. Chidi Lloyd, Divisional Police Officer, DPO, Rumuji Divisional Police Station, CSP Ofuna, his team, and operatives of Emohua Local Government Vigilante Services, EMOVIS, to a spot in the forest where the police unearthed Azunda's corpse.