

Activist lawyer shot dead in Benue



By Peter Duru

Makurdi—An Otukpo-based lawyer and activist, Mr Mike Ofikwu, has been killed by armed men at his residence in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State.

Ofikwu was shot dead by the assailants Wednesday at about 8 p.m., by the entrance of his residence on Otukpa Street in the ancient town.

A source in the area who spoke on condition of anonymity disclosed that the deceased had just returned home from work and was waiting at his entrance gate to be opened when two armed men in a vehicle drove close to him and shot him dead.

Expressing shock, he said: “It was like what you see in the movies. He just returned home and was waiting for the gate of his house to be opened for him to drive in.

“Suddenly, two men in a vehicle who were trailing him drove close to him and shot him after which they fled.

“The gunshot attracted the attention of people who ran to the scene and he was rushed to the hospital but he was already dead because he lost so much blood.

“His tragic death has thrown the Idoma community into mourning because he was a known lawyer and activist in this part of the state and country and we find it so difficult to understand the motive for his murder.”

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, who confirmed the development and commiserated with the family and friends of the deceased, assuring that an investigation into the matter was on “and I can assure you that justice will be served.”