

further calls from the abductors.

negotiate with the kidnappers."

# Man masterminds colleague's kidnap, death

By Evelyn Usman

**T**HE Rivers State Police Command has arrested a 42-year-old man, Emmanuel Ibinabo, and his step-son in connection with the kidnap and murder of his colleague, George Christopher, in his apartment in the Bodima area of the state.

Ibinabo, who said he was on a revenge mission, told police during interrogation that he lured Christopher to his house on October 7, 2024, and instructed his step-son, Clinton Wilson, to storm the apartment, pretending to be a robber.

Narrating how his friend was killed while in captivity, Ibinabo said: "Christopher and I worked in the same oil rig in Eket, Akwa-Ibom State. He did many things to make me angry and always threatened me. On October 7, 2024, we went for a medical test. The following day, his hotel rent expired, and I told him he could stay in my place instead of paying.

"I instructed my step-son to arrange with a friend to pretend to be kidnappers. They stormed the apartment in the early hours of October 9, 2024, and took Christopher and I

to another apartment, where we were tied up. Christopher managed to untie himself and attempted to escape, but I told him the kidnappers were not out to kill us but to collect money from us.

"When my step-son came, he demanded a ransom of N5 million from each of us. Christopher pleaded with me to help him pay, but my step-son said my wife had raised N500,000 for me, while they only received N150,000 for Christopher.

"They blindfolded Christopher. I held him in the neck pretending to be one of the kidnappers. Later that day, I discovered Christopher was no longer breathing. He was asthmatic. When I informed my step-son of his death, he started crying.

"I buried Christopher in an unused septic tank in the compound."

On his part, Clinton, said he never tortured the deceased.

The Rivers State Police Command spokesperson, Grace Inge-Koko, confirmed the arrest and warned Nigerians to be cautious of friends who suddenly exhibit suspicious behavior. She also advised people to inform their loved ones of their whereabouts.