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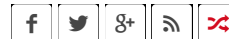
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## Gunmen kill female butcher in Edo

by **webmaster** on Sep 28, 2013 | **No comments**Posted under: **Highlights, News**

...As judges close courts over kidnapping of Justice Okungbowa

Unknown gunmen reportedly assassinated a female butcher on Friday in Benin City, Edo State. News of the killing came on the heels of a decision by Judges of the Edo State Judiciary to continue to close courts until kidnappers of Justice Iyobosa Okungbowa release him to his family hale and hearty.

The shooting victim, Mrs. Bose Iwinanogie, whose age was randomly guessed at 44 years, met her untimely death just a stone's throw from her residence on Iwinasogie Street at Aduwawa in Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area, on her way to work.

The assailants were said to have parked their car at a short distance from the victim's home, before patiently waiting for her to walk down to where they were lurking around a bad potion of the road. For some time now, the state butchers' union has been enmeshed in a serious leadership crisis that has not only resulted into the creation of a factional group, but which has seen leaders engaging themselves in violent confrontations. Even though the victim was said to be registered with the New Benin Market Meat Sellers Association, it was learnt that she belonged to a faction of the Edo State Butchers Association.

The victim was said to have attended a meeting held between Edo State Commissioner for Agriculture, Hon. Abdul Oroh and leaders of the butchers' factions over the protracted crisis shortly before her death. Confirming the meeting that was held in his office, Oroh said, "I am just hearing of her death from you now. I do not know her personally. But I do know that I had a meeting in my office with two groups of butchers who are fighting themselves. The two groups came with women when they attended the meeting. I know also that they are in court already.

But I tried to tell them to find an amicable out-of-court solution to their disagreement. So, I do not know what or who could have killed her. Only the police could say why and how she was killed." According to Osagie Osatohanmwun, spokesman for the late butcher's faction, there has been a threat to the life of the deceased. Confirming the killing to the media, Edo State Police Command spokesman, DSP Moses Eguavoen, said the police were already investigating the

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manner she was killed. He said no arrest has been made even as an autopsy was being planned for the victim.

Eguavoen said, “Her corpse has been deposited at the Guobadia Mortuary. We will get at the perpetrators soon and bring them to book.” Meanwhile Judges of Edo State High Courts as well as lawyers have decided to stop receiving, hearing and attending old and new cases scheduled for legal prosecution in courts until Justice Daniel Iyobosa Okungbowa is released safe and sound.

The Judge was reported by his family to have been kidnapped around Ekpoma on his way to a sitting of the Ekpoma Division of Edo State High Court. A communiqué issued after an emergency meeting of the Benin Branch of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), signed by the Chairman, Mr. Oriane Akhere and made available to Saturday Mirror in Benin City listed the courts to be shunned as Court of Appeal (Benin Division), Federal High Court, Edo State High Courts of Justice, Magistrate Courts, Customary Courts and District Customary Courts.

The communique called on the Edo State Government, the Federal Government and security agencies to live up to their responsibilities and immediately take proactive measures to stop the state from sliding “into the Hobbesian state of nature where life was short, nasty and brutish.” Edo State Police Commissioner, Mr. Foluso Adebajo, had denied in a telephone conversation with journalists on Thursday that the judge was kidnapped for ransom as is being rumoured, insisting that “it is a case of missing person.” Saturday Mirror, however, reliably gathered as at the time of filing this report that abductors of Justice Okungbowa were yet to contact his family for any demand.

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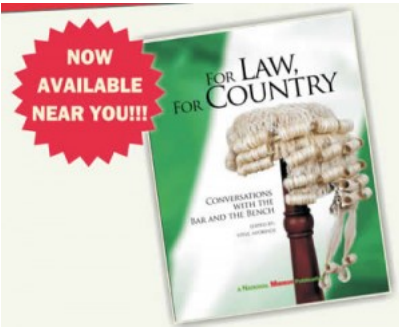
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