

Psychiatrists demand justice over killing of consultant in Enugu

Sikiru Obarayese March 2, 2026



The Association of Psychiatrists in Nigeria has denounced the killing of one of its members, Dr Andrew Orowigho, a consultant psychiatrist at the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Enugu, describing the incident as a violent blow to Nigeria's already overstretched mental health workforce.

Dr Orowigho was abducted from his Enugu residence on 30 December 2025 and later discovered with multiple injuries at a sand excavation site on the outskirts of the city. Although he was found alive and initially resuscitated in hospital, he died on 2 January 2026 while receiving treatment.

In a statement signed by APN President Dr Veronica Oluyemisi Nyamali and Secretary-General Prof Kingsley Mayowa Okonoda, the association said, "This crime must not be met with silence or indifference," noting that the killing has plunged psychiatrists across the country into mourning.

According to the statement, Dr Orowigho had left a family visit after receiving a call to attend to a patient at home. On arrival, he was reportedly confronted by armed assailants, injured, and driven away in his own vehicle. He was later found in the early hours of the following day by a sand loader and rushed for emergency care.

"In his usual characteristic manner of giving priority to patients' care, he excused himself, promising to return shortly," the APN said.

The association stressed that the incident underscores the critical shortage of mental health specialists in Nigeria, where fewer than 150 psychiatrists serve a population of more than 200 million.

"We are barely 150 psychiatrists serving over 200 million Nigerians. This reprehensible act is not only a violation of natural justice — it is a direct assault on the medical profession and Nigeria's healthcare system," the statement read.

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It warned that rising violence against healthcare workers threatens both patient care and the stability of the health sector, adding, "Psychiatrists in Nigeria cannot and will not tolerate the murder of our members."

The APN called on authorities in Enugu State to apprehend and prosecute those responsible, provide compensation and support to the bereaved family, and strengthen security for healthcare professionals nationwide.

"We demand that the perpetrators be identified and brought to justice without delay. We demand adequate compensation and support for the bereaved family," the association said, warning that failure to act would prompt lawful measures to protect its members. "We will not rest until justice is served."

While commending the management of the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Enugu for seeking justice, the association acknowledged that the Enugu State government convened an emergency security meeting at the request of the Nigerian Medical Association, with the police and Department of State Services participating.

Colleagues described Dr Orowigho as a dedicated clinician, teacher, and mentor who chose to remain in Nigeria despite opportunities abroad.

"He was a brilliant and passionate psychiatrist, deeply committed to patient care, teaching, and mentorship. His loss is a colossal blow to the mental health community in Nigeria," the APN said.

The association maintained that it would continue to press for justice until those responsible are held accountable and the family receives the necessary support.