



Zinsu

## Tear gas choked my 65-year-old mum to death — Son

*What is your name?*

My name is Zinsu Prosper.

*Where was your mother the day the demolition happened?*

My mother, Albertine Adjajiklounon, was inside the room that day. It was on Saturday, January 10, 2026, when the tear gas was fired. So, she couldn't breathe properly.

After that, we called a doctor, and I was the one who carried her out of the house to a nearby hospital. The doctor who checked her told us that she was not well. But she later died on Monday (two days after).

***How old was she?***

She was 65 years old before she died.

***Where were you when the demolition started?***

I was also here when everything started because I am a tailor, and I work around here. The caterpillar was already very close to us before we could even do anything, and they threw the tear gas very close to us.

It was the tear gas that affected her. I was also at home, but I couldn't do anything. Since that day, I've not been able to go to work because I don't know what will happen.

I have to stay with my family here and look after them. Even the house I built here has been demolished, and we're just managing where we are now. All my properties have been destroyed, and I don't know what to do again.

***Are you married?***

Yes, I'm married with kids.

***So, how are you and your family coping with the situation?***

We're still planning how to raise money for my mum's burial. She's still in a mortuary in Lagos State, where we deposited her body.

***How much was collected from you at the mortuary?***

The first time we went there, we were asked to deposit N95,000. Right now, we owe them for two weeks because they always charge for every week. We'll go back to the mortuary whenever we are ready to bury her.

***How about your dad?***

Since the incident happened, we asked him to stay away from home. We said he should go to Tomalo so he could continue fishing there. We said so because we do not know what will happen next. We don't know how to appeal to the government to assist us because right now, there is nothing else for us to sustain ourselves.

***What kind of help do you want?***

I'll be grateful if at least they assist us in raising the money needed to bury my mum. I'll be very happy. Another thing is that it will be a good thing if they also relocate us from here to a better place rather than leaving us to our fates.

We are still scared because we don't know if they are still coming to demolish the remaining structures here. The government should relocate us, support us with funds and give us work to do.