

Anambra apprentice arrested for killing master with pestle

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•The suspect. Photo: Ikenna Obianeri

By Ikenna Obianeri

The Anambra State Police Command has arrested a 21-year-old apprentice, Chiemerie Anieke, for allegedly killing his master with a pestle during a domestic dispute in Onitsha, Anambra State.

The police, in a statement on Monday, disclosed that the incident occurred on Sunday, at the Fegge area of Onitsha, following a misunderstanding between the suspect and his employer, Ikechukwu Nwite, a trader at the popular Ogbo-Ogwu Bridgehead Medicine Market.

Confirming the development, the Police Public Relations Officer, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, stated that the suspect allegedly struck his master on the head with a pestle, resulting in his death.

“The male suspect, Chiemerie Anieke, aged 21, allegedly used a pestle to hit his master, Ikechukwu Nwite, on the head, which led to his death. He also attacked the victim’s wife, Mrs Ogechukwu Nwite, during the incident. The suspect is currently in custody, and the pestle has been recovered,” Ikenga stated.

According to the police, preliminary investigations indicate that the altercation stemmed from the deceased’s reprimand of the apprentice over alleged misconduct, including pilfering money from the shop, drug use and keeping late nights.

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Eyewitnesses in the neighbourhood said the victim was rushed to the hospital after the attack, but was confirmed dead by medical personnel. His wife and sister, who were also reportedly assaulted during the incident, are said to be receiving treatment.

When our correspondent visited the residence of the deceased at No. 2 Enyiuko Street, Fegge, sympathisers had gathered to mourn the businessman, popularly known as Iyke.

The police spokesperson said the case had been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Awka, for thorough investigation and prosecution.

The command assured residents that justice would be served and urged members of the public to seek lawful means of resolving disputes rather than resorting to violence.

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