

Wife claims governor's aides killed her husband

“My husband died after he was beaten by security guards at the home of the new Niger State governor,” a widowed housewife has claimed yesterday in Minna, the Niger State capital.

Photographer Adekunle Lawrence was beaten up after he tried to deliver photographs of Dr Babangida Aliyu's inauguration to the newly elected governor, his 23 year old wife Folashade told journalists

Folashade, speaking in an interview with journalists in Minna, yesterday, disclosed that husband died from complications arising from the beating by the security agents.

She said: “He told me he was going to deliver some photo albums to Talba (Governor Babangida Aliyu). It was around 12 in the afternoon. He said he would wait for me before he leaves. I saw him arranging the photos. I came back to discover that he had gone. Not more than an hour later, his sister rushed in to tell us that my husband was seriously beaten at Talba's house. I rushed there to see my husband lying helplessly on the ground in front of Talba's house, unattended to. I had to look for a taxi to convey him to the hospital. All these while the security people were just looking at me. They did not even care to offer assistance in putting him inside the cab”.

She disclosed that the deceased was promptly attended to at the hospital, where he received drips and

From Aideloje Ojo, Minna

after some time regained consciousness and narrated how the incident happened.

“My husband later narrated to me how the entire incident happened. He said he had no difficulty gaining entrance into the house because he was quite familiar with the governor's house. The governor had engaged him on several occasions even before he became a governor. He said on his way out, he was accosted by a uniformed mobile policeman who demanded to know his mission in the governor's house and before he could offer a reply, the mobile man had descended on him raining slaps, blows and using butt of his gun on him after which he became unconscious”.

She lamented that the man died later from complications arising from the brutality suffered in the hands of the security men.

Reacting to the incident, the Special Assistant to the Governor on Media Affairs, Alhaji Jibril Suleiman, debunked the claims made by Folasade.

He explained that there was a brush between the deceased and the security agents at the governor's residence but the deceased was discharged after treatment before his death several days later.

The police Public Relations Officer for the Niger State Command, Mr. Funsho Adeshina, when contacted for comments, denied knowledge of the incident.