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Broadcaster's murder: Five suspects arrested

Written by Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina, on 17-08-2008 01:08**Views** 73

Five persons have been arrested in connection with the murder last week, of an Ace broadcaster, Muntari Mohammed Kukumi in Katsina, the state police command has said.

The police public relations officer, PPRFO, ASP Adamu Yusuf who confirmed the arrests to Sunday Trust said, those arrested included two women and three men who are family members as well as members of the society.

Though the police spokesman refused to reveal further information concerning the arrests or their level of alleged involvement, investigations by Sunday Trust indicated that barely two days after the incident, police got intelligence report that provided important clues for investigations into the murder.

Further investigations by our correspondent showed that those who were arrested included the daughter of the deceased and her mother who was his first wife and his house boy, while a warrant of arrest was also issued in respect of his immediate younger brother, Ibrahim Mohammed Kakumi. Other sources disclosed that the nine year old food vendor who raised an alarm when she discovered his body was also arrested along with her father.

The atmosphere in Katsina has remained tense after the news broke about the gruesome murder of the seasoned journalist and veteran broadcaster who was slaughtered in broad daylight in his residence in Kangiwa Road, GRA, Katsina.

As the police intensified investigations into the murder, Islamic scholars in the state prayed for divine intervention as the incident was the first of its kind in recent times.

Late Muntari Kakumi was a seasoned broadcaster who started his career in the 60s with the defunct Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria (BCNN) now Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) before he moved to Radio Duscherville in Germany, and came back home in the 70's to work Katsina state radio and television, then KTBC, where he headed the Katsina radio sub-station under old Kaduna state.

Late Kakumi who was said to have expressed the desire to retire in 2009, joined the mainstream civil service at the state ministry of agriculture where he was posted to the state agricultural and rural development authority (KTARDA) in the early 80's, he was until his death, a director, Media and Communication in that agency.

His colleagues, family members and neighbours have fond memories of the late journalist. A staff of KTARDA who spoke to Sunday Trust on condition of anonymity disclosed that the deceased was a quiet and hard working person who could not have offended any person as he did not intervene in other people's affairs.

One of his brothers Adamu Aliyu who also corroborated this view described him as having lived in isolation without minding other people's business. His neighbor, Malam Mukhtar in his own comment said that you could pass in front of his house for a whole week without seeing him once, "he lived a very simple and easy life and related very well with everybody". Mukhtar said of him.

Mallam Usman Abdullahi, another neighbour, disclosed that he and other people in the neighbourhood had intimidated the in-law and brother of the deceased after they peeped into the living room and saw his lifeless body, noting that one of the hobbies of the deceased was feeding birds and animals.

"I almost wept when I saw his peacock and cats outside his house, they seemed to be waiting for food apparently unaware of the perpetual absence of their provider", he stated emotionally.

Though the reason for his murder is still cloudy, among the issues foreclosed by the police is the incessant family problems he was said to be having over the years, as Sunday Trust gathered that, the deceased had serious family crisis with two of his former wives, one of which he was said to have had a legal tussle, leading to their separation.

Another area for possible suspicion, according to sources in Katsina, is the business deals of second hand vehicles with business partners with whom he could have had misunderstanding, though he was described as a much disciplined person in terms of business relations. He was however, said to be expecting payment of a business transaction running into hundreds of thousands.

There was also heightened suspicion that the killers were suspected assassins as there was no evidence of theft in the house even though some of his property were scattered, he has since been buried at Rimin Badawa central graveyard in the metropolis.

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