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Nigeria: Ex-Diplomat's Son Dies in Police Custody

Misbahu Bashir

The son of a former Nigerian Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Ajakaye, died last week in a police cell in Abuja, where he was detained allegedly over breach of public peace.



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A family source said the deceased. Olusola Aiakave. 44. of Kubwa Town Abuia. was allegedly tortured before his death because bruises were found on his body. "He was injured in the head and legs," she said.

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The source said before his arrest, he went to an eatery in Kubwa at night where he was angered and went berserk and broke a number of plate's cups and bottles. "He gets angry at slightest frustration." the source said.

The police were alerted of the incident and they arrested Aiakave. He was detained at the Kubwa Divisional Police Station. The family was later informed by the police that he died in allegedly in

detention. His body was deposited at the Specialist Hospital in Gwagwalada. Autopsy is still being awaited.

But, an eve witness said the deceased calmed down when the police arrived and did not resist arrest. The deceased is survived by his wife, 3 children and parents.

A senior police officer in the Station said he was not tortured by the police and died in the hospital. The Police Public Relations Officer in Abuja SP Moshood Jimoh said Ajakaye went to the eatery and started breaking items there. He was caught by the people around: the people later tied his legs and hand with

cables and rope before taking him to the Station. "The people beat him up on the way to the Station," he said. He added that his parents were traced and they made statement saying that the deceased had mental illness.

According to him. Alakave fell ill in the morning and police fetch him to hospital. "He died on the way to hospital," he said. The Commissioner of Police in Abuia John Haruna directed the case transfer to the Criminal Investigation Department for investigation.

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