

# How a family lost its jewel to hired killers

*Mr. Daniel Obiabo was keenly awaited by his family when he left work for home one evening. But when news finally came to his family about his whereabouts, he was found dead in his car. Who killed him?*

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**T**HE mysterious death of Mr. Daniel Augustine Obiabo has left a painful vacuum in his family especially for his wife, Mrs. Mercy Obiabo and his four kids. On Tuesday, the 24th of August, Mr. Obiabo was shot in his car on his way home from work at New Karu by unknown assailants.

Mr. Daniel Obiabo until his death was an assistant director with the National Board for Technology Incubation, Abuja. The late Mr. Obiabo was on his way home and had already communicated with his wife, who called him at 9.30pm to confirm where he was. He had told her that he was almost home and was held up in the hold-up along the Mararaba-Nyanya Road but that he would be home in the next fifteen minutes, so she should standby to open the gate for him when he arrived.

Mrs. Obiabo said that was the last she heard from him as she waited for minutes which ran into hours for him to show up but he did not.

At about 12.30a.m, she then decided to call some of his friends to ask if they knew where he was. "Before then, I had called his mobile phone after I had waited for several hours to know what was wrong but it was engaged for a about twenty minutes," she said. "After sometime, I called again and it was not available. That was when I started panicking and called some of his friends because since we got married he has never kept late night. So, the whole thing was strange and weird to me."

She said his friends tried to comfort her and convince her that all was well. "We tried all we could to convince her that all was okay, that maybe it was just the normal prank men play on their wives," said a friend of the deceased who prefers not to be named. "But she was hysterical as she was so convinced that there was something wrong somewhere. She lost it all as she was beyond control even before we could find out what had actually happened."

In the early hours of the 25th of August, news got to residents living around the palace of the Etsu Nupe in the area that a corpse was found in a Mercedes 230 car by a police patrol team a few meters from Karu Local Government Area secretariat in Nasarawa State. Friends and family of the deceased rushed to see who it was. It turned out to be the man they had all kept vigil all night



MR. Daniel Obiabo...assassinated?

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waiting patiently to return home.

A family member of the deceased said, "It is a clear case of premeditated murder as he was shot and nothing was taken away from him except his SIM cards that were removed from his mobile phones. He had N85, 000, a laptop and other valuables in his car but it was not taken away. The killing was also carried out in a very professional way as he was shot once and straight in the heart."

The New Karu police handling the case say they are doing everything to uncover the mystery behind the killing, but from all indications, it is a clear case of assassination. While releasing the body from the Maitama District Hospital, Abuja for burial, the police said autopsy had been carried out. "From the autopsy we conducted we found out that he was shot at close range and a special kind of bullet was used as the bullet exploded in his body and destroyed vital organs leading to his instant death," said Mr. Attah Abbah, the Investigating Police Officer in charge of the case.

He also said they were working in collaboration with

the mobile networks which the deceased used to ascertain the calls that were made on his phone on the day of the incidence.

"We are leaving no stone unturned in this case, we are getting to the end of this killing and we need the public to come up with relevant information to help unravel the case," he said.

For Mrs. Mercy Obiabo, life will definitely remain meaningless for some time for her as she keeps asking, "What did he do to deserve this kind of death? Where do we go from here, how do I cope with four kids all by myself?" She was suffused with emotion.

The unanswered question now is, who killed Mr. Daniel Obiabo, and what was the motive behind their action, as he is said to have been an easy-going person who loved to be at peace with everyone? Unless the police begin to unravel such mysterious killings, they might continue to go on for some time to come.

It would be recalled that a similar case happened last year when a Corporate Affairs Commission staff was killed with the perpetrators at large.