

'I was waiting for my son's NYSC cert, but they brought me his corpse'



CUT down in his prime...late Abba Kirawa Hamman during an NYSC event in Delta State

Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

“IT was a tragic incident,” remarked Dr. Abubakar Mu’azu, a lecturer in the University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID), referring to the brutal killing of 22-year-old Hamman Abba Kirawa by gunmen three days before he completed his

National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) assignment. News of Hamman’s burial spread across the university and people thronged to Ruwan Zafi, the family house of the slain youth-corps member.

Sources said some yet-to-be identified gunmen attacked Hamman at night, and it remains unclear whether the incident was armed robbery, a ritual killing or a cultist-related one. Sources said the assailants shot Abba in the chest after the deceased left his colleagues at the corporers’ lodge to collect his Blackberry at a nearby pharmacy where he took it for charging. Because of a curfew in the area as a result of incessant kidnapping, his colleagues could not go out to look for him. It was in the morning that his body was found.

Father of the deceased, Abba Hamman, who received the corpse of his son on Tuesday, told *Weekly Trust* that spoke to his son on phone a few hours before the brutal murder. Then some NYSC officials broke the devastating about 20 hours after: “Hamman had told me that his wish was to pursue his masters’ degree. I told him I will support the idea and will give him all that it takes.”

The elder Hamman, crying, continued: “I was anxiously waiting for my son to bring me his certificate of national service but it is his corpse that was brought to me.” The corpse was brought to Maiduguri at about 2pm on Tuesday, in a yellow casket in a Peugeot Expert ambulance vehicle with

Delta State NYSC registration number FG 188 G45.

To comply with Islamic provision that a dead person should be buried as soon as possible, preparation for the burial of Hamman was set in motion immediately. However, his mother pleaded that she should be allowed to see her son one last time. As soon as she sighted the corpse she broke into tears and sympathizers took her away.

Hundreds of people, including staff of UNIMAID, led by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Mala Daura, attended the funeral prayers which took place at the deceased’s family residence at Ruwan Zafi before the corpse was taken for burial.

A native of Borno State, Hamman died with big dreams after enduring a stay in faraway Delta State for roughly twelve months. “He served with zeal, commitment and dedication to national duty,” Baana Ali, a friend of the deceased, said.

Hamman was a Batch ‘C’ corps member who was supposed to complete his mandatory service penultimate Tuesday. But he was brought to Maiduguri dead the same day, in a casket. A graduate of Geology from UNIMAID, he served at Ole, headquarters of Isoko South local government area of Delta State.

Mohammed Yusuf Ibrahim, the Amir of the Muslim Corper’s Association in Borno State, prayed God to grant the soul of the deceased eternal rest and the family the fortitude to bear the loss. He also called on the federal government to look into the circumstances surrounding the death of their colleague.