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## WHEN WIFE HIRED ASSASSINS TO MURDER HUSBAND

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Did a house wife hire assassins to murder her husband of 22 years and the father of her six children? This is one of the questions the police are working to unravel

For now, the police cell is the abode of Mrs. Chisa Chukwu, pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation by the Nigeria Police to unravel the mystery surrounding the gruesome murder of her husband Chief Kingsley Nyekazi Chukwu from Mgbeoshimiri, a native community in Rumuolumeni axis of Obio Akpor local Government Area of Rivers State. She is being held with another suspect.

Late Chukwu, a senior staffer with an oil company Port Harcourt left his home on Thursday, March 14, 2013, bade his family farewell and probably would have given his wife a parting peck. He never knew it was going to be his last on earth. After the day's work, Chukwu headed straight to his house around 11.30 pm. But his wife of 22 years had allegedly perfected another way of 'welcoming him'.

The deceased was security-conscious given the way he fortified his house. The fence of the entire compound had razor wire on top and a gigantic gate ostensibly to wade off any intruder, but little did he know that the enemies were within his immediate family circle.

When he returned home, he met his wife, Chisa, daughter, Chile, a university undergraduate, his son and two maids. The deceased had refreshed and his wife asked what he would take for supper. He requested for oat which was his last meal on this earth. His wife allegedly poisoned the meal which weakened him and made it possible for the assassins to kill him without any resistance.

How this dastardly act was achieved even in the presence of a family of six is the puzzle the police are working to unravel. The suspected murderers numbering three then swung into action using every weapon at their disposal to kill the man. It was indeed a gory site as one would find it very difficult to recognize the deceased. His head was smashed beyond recognition.

Satisfied that their target was dead, the suspects were said to have pretentiously harassed and hounded the children of the deceased, collected their three hands sets and then fled the scene. Mrs. Chisa raised alarm that her husband has been killed. Neighbors rushed in and the entire compound was filled with inquisitive sympathizers. Worried that the family of Chukwu might raise eye brow on what could have led to the killing of their bread winner, the deceased's wife rushed to the house of her husband's elder brother Chief Fineface Chukwu, to inform him about what happened. "Last Thursday at about 1am, that was on h March 14, 2013, my brother's wife, Chisa came and knocked heavily on my door. I opened and asked her what happened. She told me that my brother has been killed. I asked how and when. I followed her to the house and to my utmost shock and surprise, I saw my brother lying lifeless in the pool of his blood on a sofa with his head battered. I asked what happened and who was responsible for this dastardly act. Nobody could offer any reasonable response. I immediately called the Ada George Police Station and the police quickly came to the house. They went round the entire compound to find out how the killer gained access to the compound, but to my surprise there was no burglary breakthrough. The high fence was intact; all the doors to my brother's house are armored and nobody tempered with any of them, so I wondered how it happened. The police ransacked the entire compound and it was there that the blood-stained



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machete the assassins used to kill my brother was recovered in an uncompleted building within the compound. They also recovered a mortar pistol. The wardrobe in his bedroom had blood stain all over. The police took the corpse away which was later deposited in a mortuary. They came back later and arrested the wife, the son and the two house maids,” the aggrieved and heartbroken Fineface Chukwu told Weekly Trust in Port Harcourt.

Shortly after the deceased was murdered, one of the suspected assassins was arrested as he was trying to escape by the Mgboshimiri vigilante group along the Federal Housing Estate Agip. The vigilante group was set up by residents to check the rising cases of arm robbery attacks in the community. The suspect was accosted by the vigilante group and was subjected to thorough interrogation. The suspicion of the vigilante rose when they saw a blood stain on the suspect's cloth. He was then quizzed and to the surprise of the vigilante group, the suspects confessed that he was one of the assassins hired by Mrs. Chisa to kill her husband. The police were called in and the suspect was paraded before the family of the deceased. He was recognized as one of the killers of late Chukwu. Mr. Fineface explained: “the suspect while trying to escape was arrested by the vigilante. The blood stain on his cloth was what arose their suspicion. He was interrogated and he confessed to have participated in the killing of my brother. The three handsets which he collected from my brother's children were recovered from him. He also mentioned the names of the other accomplices who are now at large. One of them is Onyemaechi, my late brother wife's brother whom he allegedly engaged the assassins to carry out the killings.

“But the way and manner my brother was killed suggests that he was induced with a substance, because from our observation we discovered that there was no resistance when the killers attacked him. My brother was a very strong and brave man. I don't want to believe that somebody would just grip and just kill him the way they did. I suspected that his wife might have poisoned that oat meal he took which weakened him,” Mr. Fineface narrated.

The circumstances surrounding the death of Chukwu had kept tongues wagging in the family. There are insinuations from some quarters that the wife allegedly masterminded the killing of her husband on the mere suspicion that he got a lady pregnant and was in the process of marrying her. Fineface Chukwu did not subscribe to such insinuations. He said his brother has not informed anybody in the family that he wanted to marry anybody. “I am his elder brother. If he wanted to marry another woman, I, his elder brother would have been the first person he would have confided in. I don't think he wanted to marry anybody,” he said.



Chile Chukwu, the daughter of the deceased, corroborated her uncle's words. She denied that her father planned to marry another woman as no such thing was made known to the family. She said even if her father decided to take another wife, that does not justify the action of her mother.

Rivers State Police command said the matter is with the Homicide Department and that significant progress is being made to arrest those still at large and prosecute them.

A similar incident occurred in 1992 when a prominent son of Ikwerre land Chief Obi Wali was murdered in his bedroom. The killing of Wali was allegedly instigated by his wife who was accused of hiding those who killed late Wali in his bedroom.

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