

RELEASE MY SON FOR BURIAL, SLAIN TEENAGER'S FATHER TELLS POLICE



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Friday, January 24, 2014 will forever remain green in the memories of the family of the late Hassan Ibrahim, a 14-year-old Senior Secondary School (SSS) student of Armstrong Secondary School, Kaduna.

He was allegedly killed by the police.

He reportedly died Friday night when the police raided his friend's shop along Nnamdi Azikiwe Road. It was said that he had gone to pass the night there after his father demanded that he should barb his afro hairstyle.

Alhaji Ibrahim Abdullahi Mai Penti, Hassan's father and an indigene of Kaduna State, is crying out for justice, insisting that his son's body, which is lying in Gwamna Awan General Hospital mortuary, be officially released for burial according to Islamic rights.

Narrating his ordeal to our correspondent in Kaduna, the 65-year-old Mai Penti said, "Hassan was arrested alongside his friends where he went to pass the night because I scolded him and told him to go and barb his bushy hair.

The boy had never slept outside his home and had never been involved in any criminal activity.

"His friends said they heard gunshots between 1 to 2 am and decided to peep through the door to confirm where they were coming from. While Hassan was still asleep, one of his friends opened the door and tried to escape, but he could not; so he came back to the shop and closed the door. That's when the police sighted them and forced the door open and arrested all of them.

I believe the police arrested my son because of the hair he was keeping. That's why I wanted him to shave it.

"I was told that a policeman hit him in the head with his gun, which led to an instant heavy rush of blood that led to his death. I was alerted of the incident by a policeman in mufti – Nuru Small - at the Tudun Wada police station, along Ibrahim Taiwo road. He said they had killed my son and I should go and claim his corpse at 44 Military Hospital," Alhaji Abdullahi said.

Asked to give account of the number of policemen that raided the shop that night, he said, "I don't know how many they were because I was not there; I was only told of the incident in the morning.

"When I went to the police station the next morning, I met a police woman by the counter. But before I could even finish talking to her, the policeman called Nura Small came out and started threatening me with a stick. He, however, later apologised over his action and asked me to come back the next day.

"When we went to the military hospital, the corpse of my son was not in their mortuary; we later realised that it was at the Gwamna Awan General Hospital mortuary.

When we saw my son's body, he had injuries from severe beating.

"The mortuary attendants, who told us that the police brought my son's corpse there, said they would not release it without their permission.

When they called the police, they said we were unofficially given the permission to take it. But I was not comfortable with that arrangement as the police are not people to be trusted. They could deny ever releasing the corpse to us.

"We are seeking for justice and proper official release of his remains.

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My son's life and future has been terminated; he was to write the West African Examination and had been helping me in my paint business. It's really unfair and unfortunate for him to be killed unjustly," he said, describing their action as inhuman.

Reacting to police's claim that his son was an armed robber, he said that Hassan was well-behaved, did not steal, did not drink alcohol nor smoked Indian hemp.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Kaduna command, DSP Aminu Lawal, said the police did not have such person in their custody.

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