

Aliyu Babankarfi, Zaria, &
Nathaniel Bivan

How man was killed in Zaria over N100 for marijuana

The cause of Murtala Haladu's death has made many residents in Zaria city in Kaduna State to wonder how it went that far.

Shehu Maijaki, originally from Niger Republic, is alleged to have killed Haladu. They both lived at Layin Zomo, Falladan, Sabon Gari local government area. The father of the deceased, Alhaji Haladu Dankaka told *Daily Trust* on Saturday how his son was killed over the meager sum of N100.

He said one Saturday, his son had set out to trade at the market, Kasuwan Magani, when Maijaki stalked and hit him with a piece of wood that had nails on it, adding that the nails pierced his head and stuck there before people came to his rescue.

"We were immediately informed about his predicament," the father of the deceased said, adding that they rushed over and took Haladu to the St. Luke Hospital in Wusasa.

"When they took a look at him, they did an X-ray for N30,000 and sent us to Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika. They again did another X-ray there that cost N60,000. Everything happened on a Saturday and he died on Wednesday in the evening," Dankaka explained.

When he was asked what



■ Alhaji Haladu Dankaka, late Murtala's father



■ Late Murtala Haladu on his hospital bed before he died

happened, the father said what he heard was that there was an orange seller by the roadside called Bilya, who is married to Maijaki's younger sister. He gave late Haladu N100 to buy marijuana for him, but Haladu asked him what he meant by sending him on such an errand knowing that he does not use the substance, saying that he would hold onto the money in

that case and he left.

So Bilya told his brother-in-law that the deceased collected the money from him and insulted him. Maijaki then took the burden of addressing the matter.

"This was what led Maijaki to kill him, because it was said he had been looking for him for two days," Dankaka intimated, adding that his son died leaving a

pregnant wife and four children. He lamented such crimes are committed and the culprits are allowed to go scot-free. This, he stressed was dangerous for the country.

A man who gave his name only as Bello also told *Daily Trust* on Saturday that he met the duo quarrelling over N100, adding that Bilya's son was suffering from

measles and he (Bilya) was advised to cook marijuana leaves, give him to drink and bath him so that he would be cured. But late Haladu was offended when he was asked by Bilya to buy the substance and decided to hold on to the money.

In order to end the quarrel, Bello said he gave them N200 but the next day he heard that Maijaki had hit the deceased on the head.

When Maijaki's mother, A'isha was approached, Malam Idris, his father hid himself afraid that he would have to defend his son. She said: "I am not happy with what he did, but I am asking that he should be forgiven because even Allah forgives us for our bad deeds."

The mother told *Daily Trust* on Saturday that Maijaki has the habit of terrorising and stealing from people, adding that it was because he once stole a donkey that he was given the nickname 'Maijaki,' meaning owner of a donkey.

The police area command in Zaria confirmed the story, saying the case has been transferred to the Criminal Investigative Department at the state police headquarters in Kaduna for further investigation.

8 people feared

EFCC drills former boss