

# I need justice over my husband's death – Widow

By Hope Abah, Makurdi | Publish Date: Dec 10 2016 2:38AM

Woman demands justice over the killing of her husband while trying to enforce a court judgment over a disputed land

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Gideon / Dorcas and her children

If Mrs. Dorcas Faeren Tarhemba had the slightest premonition that death was lurking around to seize someone dearest to her, perhaps, she would have prevented her husband from going out on October 28, 2016.

Her husband of over a decade, Gideon Tarhemba Achaku, 33, had conducted the family devotion at exactly 5:00am and prayed for God's intervention in their life pursuits.

He had also asked for divine wisdom, protection and guidance for his day's activities, especially for the first task he expected to perform, which was likely to be confrontational.

According to Mrs. Tarhemba, at about 7:30am, news filtered in that her husband had been attacked by some suspected thugs on a piece of land where he had gone with his elder brother in their attempt to enforce a court judgment in their favour over the disputed property.

"I met my husband in the hospital in a state of coma. That was two hours after I learnt he was hit with a pestle. He had ceased to talk at that point and remained motionless until he gave up the ghost the following day," she said.

The mother of three added that what pained her most about the death of her husband was the fact that the killers were walking freely.

"I want justice to prevail. I don't want the death of my husband to be in vain. I urge law enforcement agents to fish out the killers of my husband," she pleaded.

Earlier at a press conference, Mr Julius Achaku, the elder brother of the deceased, lamented his inability to re-possess the land located at Adeke Village in Genabe District of Makurdi, several months after the Supreme Court ordered that it be returned to him.

Achaku said the property was being wrongly occupied by two brothers, Kusa Ashan and Uchi Ashan, who were his late father's in-laws, adding that his late father had allocated parts of the land to his in-law, Ashan, for farming but over time, he (Ashan) claimed ownership, which led to the dispute.

He noted that following the death of his father, he approached the courts to enable him reclaim the land and consequently won the case at the High Court, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

In the attempt to take possession of the land, his younger brother, Gideon, was killed.

Achaku, who vehemently expressed misgivings on the failure of the police to arrest the killers and the inability to enforce the judgment months after it was served, urged the court bailiffs to adopt a better strategy to enforce the judgment to enable him repossess the land.

He had also petitioned the state Director of State Security Service (SSS), demanding the immediate arrest and investigation of all persons involved in the event that led to the gruesome death of his brother.

But, in his reaction, the Commissioner of Police, Bashir Makama, denied claims that no arrests were made over the killing of the complainant's brother, saying it was not true that the police did nothing after the attack. He said rather, some arrests were made.

Makama maintained that the police complied with the orders of the court by providing armed policemen to accompany the court bailiffs to enforce the judgment.

According to the police commissioner, the presence of thugs at the settlement ground brewed crisis between the two parties, a development which forced the bailiffs to leave amidst the tension.

"The police were not sent to protect Gideon but the court bailiffs who were going to enforce the judgment of the court. So, when the bailiffs left, the police also left. Some arrests were made after the case of homicide was reported, but those arrested were released following the intervention of the Deputy Governor, Mr Benson Abounu, who promised to resolve the matter," Makama said.