



CITY NEWS

Family at war over death, burial of ex-police officer

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

The police at the homicide unit of the State Criminal Investigations Department (SCID) is currently investigating the mystery surrounding the death of one retired Superintendent of Police, Joseph Iden.

The deceased, according to a family source, died in 2016 after eating a meal prepared for him by one of his children and was confirmed dead in an undisclosed hospital.

Until Iden's death, he was residing at No. 5 Adetola Street, Alagbado.

A senior cousin of the deceased, Pa Sunday Ogomo, in a petition to

the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Fatai Owooseni, alleged that, after the victim was confirmed dead, one of his female children moved his corpse to the General Hospital, Ota, Ogun State, where the body was deposited in the mortuary.

According to Ogomo, before the family could meet to deliberate on the sad news, four of the children of the late police officer and their mother had moved the body to Delta State where he was buried.

Pa Ogomo, who spoke on behalf of the extended family members, said.

"We got information from the deceased's daughter, Ruth, on July 4 2016 that her father was

dead and she had deposited the corpse in the hospital morgue.

We were shocked because retired SP Joseph Iden had the previous day attended Ruth's wedding introduction. His young son called Precious, who was living with him, had gone to fix a phone for the deceased but when he got there, he found his father rolling on the floor in excruciating pains.

"He said he tried to call Ruth who had gone upstairs to inform her of their father's predicament. At this point, a neighbour heard the noise and came to assist. They took Joseph Iden to a private hospital but he was pronounced dead on arrival. His daughter, Ruth, took the corpse and deposited it in the mortuary at the

State Hospital, Ota, Ogun State. Our brother had other relatives living around but, strangely, his daughter did not inform them before taking him to the morgue. When the family members came to the house, they found Ruth's mother - a woman who had left the deceased more than 20 years ago in the house at Alagbado, Lagos State.

"Joseph Iden had elder sisters and brothers, and extended family members. We are from Evboesi village in Orhionmwon Local Government Area in Edo State. We called a family meeting inviting Ruth to explain how her father died. Her brothers came but she did not show up. We called several meetings but

she still did not come. We were surprised that she got married 12 days after her father's death. We saw the photographs of her marriage on Facebook. As this was going on, the family, through our lawyers, wrote a letter to the State Hospital at Ota, Ogun State, placing a caveat on the release of the body. We went on to petition the Lagos State Police Command as we needed an autopsy to be conducted on the cause of the death as we suspected that he was murdered," he said.

The spokesperson for the Zone 2 police command, Superintendent of Police Dolapo Badmos, said she would reply to our enquiry, but was yet to do so at the time of filing this report.