

# My son murdered in police custody – Father

By Hope Abah, Makurdi | Publish Date: Aug 22 2017 2:00AM

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The father of a 22-year-old student of the Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State, said his son must have been murdered after he was taken into detention by the police.

Mr. Abel Ameh alleged that his son, Abel Ngbede, was detained following a false allegation against him.

Ameh, a retired nursing officer, said on July 2, a mob led by five individuals including a female named Franca stormed his house at Adoka centre in Otukpo LGA and arrested his son on allegation that he beat her (Franka) up and pointed a gun at her.

Ameh in a petition written by his counsel E.J. Igoche, Esq. of Owofu Chambers in Otukpo to the state's Commissioner of Police and made available to our correspondent in Makurdi, said he was at his private clinic in Adoka when the five people led the mob to his house.

"My son was taken to the B division of the police station in Adoka and detained on the same day at the orders of his captors. When I was told, I went to the police station to see my son who told me that the allegation against him was false. My son told me that the boyfriend of the said Franca cooked the story on pretence that he was snatching his girl from him," Ameh stated.

The retired nurse added that he pleaded with the police to release his son on bail but they refused.

Ameh said he was told that Ngbede was taken out of his cell at about 4:00am on July 4 and murdered by the police, who also buried him in an 'unknown grave'.

The father further said that he had visited all police stations in Otukpo areas and Makurdi but no one could yet give him any concrete information about the whereabouts of his son,

who was a HND 11 student and the fourth of his eight children.

He appealed to the State Commissioner of Police, Bashir Makama, to bring the perpetrators of the alleged murder to justice and to unravel the secret over where he might have been buried.

When contacted, the police commissioner said he had commenced investigation into the matter and that nothing would be swept under the carpet at the end of the command's findings.