Police charge son over Abuja bizman's killing

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The suspect, Huzaifa Hussaini Usman The deceased, Alhaji Hussaini Usman

A 22-year-old man has been charged by the police in Abuja for allegedly killing his own father.

The deceased, Alhaji Hussaini Usman, a businessman and contractor, was allegedly strangled to death in his residence at Abdulkareem Adisa Estate, Apo, Abuja on October 28. Police investigators have reportedly concluded

after over a month of investigation that the deceased's last son, Huzaifa Hussaini Usman, was the main suspect in the murder.

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Sources familiar with the development said the story was first circulated on October 28 that armed robbers invaded the house of the deceased and strangled him.

"He was said to be on his way to the mosque around 5am with Huzaifa when the assailants attacked him and asked Huzaifa to face the wall," a family source, who asked not to be named, said.

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A neighbour of the deceased was said to have explained that after the morning prayers, those that came late to the mosque reportedly heard some noises coming from the deceased's house and put a call across to him but that he didn't answer.

They were said to have finally gotten access to the house after calling the wife of the deceased.

"When they entered, they saw the dead body of Alhaji in the sitting room. Those that entered said they were suspicious because they knocked on the door severally and it took a long while before it was eventually opened.

Huzaifa was said to have told people that after he discovered his father had been killed and the assailants had left, he dragged the corpse to the sitting room from the compound and he went to call his mother before they went to the mosque to call for assistance.

The family source said this conflicting narrative led to further questions. "Huzaifa said they went to call people from the mosque but the people from the mosque said they actually went on their own to make enquiries in the house. These are a group of people, so we believe they cannot be lying."

He added that "on Huzaifa's body, there were scratches that looked like finger scratches. So we were suspicious and asked how he came about the scratches since he earlier said the assailants asked him to face the wall."

The source further revealed that suspicion grew when they discovered that Huzaifa did not accompany the corpse to the National Mosque despite being the only man in the house since his elder brother, Aliyu Hussain, was in Kano the night of the incident.

It was gathered that the request of the police to conduct an autopsy on the corpse was rebuffed by his family members who insisted he should be buried immediately according to Islamic rites.

About two weeks after the incident, Huzaifa was invited by the police and has been in detention since then.

A source familiar with the police investigation said Huzaifa admitted that he gave money to someone to kill one Ismail but not his father.

However, spokesman of the FCT Police Command, DSP Anjuguri Manzah, while confirming the arrest, added that investigation had been concluded and a charge has been filed against the son as the principal suspect before the High Court of the FCT.

He however said a date has not yet been fixed for the arraignment of the suspect.