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THE BIG STORY

How 71-yr-old retired civil servant was murdered in Edo

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

Fresh details have emerged on how a 71-year-old retired civil servant was murdered on August 16 by unknown persons at his residence at Igueben town of Edo State.

The deceased, Albert Elumhense, worked with the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture before his retirement.

It was gathered that the assailants scaled the fence of his compound while he was away and waited for him to return and killed him in cold blood.

It was further gathered that the deceased was staying alone in his compound after his retirement.

Speaking with our reporter, one of the deceased's children, Edobor Elumhesen, said the assailants broke into his father's house at Igueben last week Friday night while he was away and murdered him as soon as he returned home.

"The assailant entered my father's house through the fence when he was away to see his elder brother. When he returned at about

8pm, his assailant attacked him with a machete on his head cutting him three times immediately he entered the compound," he said.

He added that after inflicting machete cuts on his head, the attacker put him on a chair in the house where he bled to death, adding that people only discovered his corpse in the morning.

"My dad is a retired civil servant and just staying in the village. He is staying alone and he is not rich nor does he play politics. He did not even register at Igueben. So, I don't know the motive of the assailant because he doesn't have issues with anybody in the village. I asked those around, they told me that he was friendly and at home with everybody," he said.

He however called on the state government and security agencies to bring the killers of his father to justice, saying that the crime situation in the area was getting out hand. He said a lady was last month murdered in the area with her head severed off.

The Edo State police commissioner, DanMallam

Muhammed, confirmed the incident, describing it as a case of murder.

"Yes, he was killed. They said he was a retiree and staying alone in his compound. I have asked the DPO of the area to come and brief me on the detail.

"It is a case of murder because

the assailant(s) did not take anything from the house after killing him. It is a case that we will thoroughly investigate to unravel what actually happened," he said.

He assured that the perpetrators would be arrested soon and prosecuted.



■ The deceased, Albert Elumhense