

Why we won't protest palm wine tapper's murder of own wife – Youth Leader

By Tony Adibe, Enugu | Published Date Sep 6, 2019 1:44 AM

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President of Oboama Youth Association, Mr. Ikenna Anawanti has said that the youths in Oboama Autonomous Community in Ezinihitte Mbaise LGA of Imo State have no plan to protest the reported cold blooded murder of a house wife allegedly by her husband, Mr. Richard Anochirionye, alias “Okpoka” a palm wine tapper.

South-East Trust recalls that the Umuoduku village in Oboama community was thrown into confusion when a palm wine tapper, Mr Richard Anochirionye, was alleged to have murdered his wife with a plank last Friday.

It was gathered that husband and wife had a serious misunderstanding about the erection of a shop on the family land without the knowledge of the head of the family. When the man raised the matter before the family it degenerated into a serious friction which eventually led to the death of the woman, our correspondent was reliably informed.

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A source said that trouble started on Friday morning when the man had a serious misunderstanding with the wife prompting the wife to use a plank to hit him repeatedly on his mouth with a persistent threat to kill him.

However, South-East Trust was reliably informed that later the man waited patiently till all his male children went out and he reportedly tricked his daughter by sending her on an errand before allegedly attacking the wife with the same plank.

A source said that upon returning from the errand, the daughter saw her mother's corpse on the ground and raised the alarm which attracted villagers who rushed to the scene of the incident and eventually invited the police who arrested the suspect.

Since the incident, there has been unconfirmed report that the Oboama youths would protest the incident.

But the youth leader, Mr. Anawanti, who spoke to South East Trust on telephone, emphasized that the issue about Oboama youth protesting the murder of the woman should not arise "because the act was committed not by an outsider but an insider".

He stated that since the man who was said to have committed the abomination was caught and handed over to the police there was no need for a protest.

He recalled that for a long time, the family members have been having a running battle within their household, in spite of the series of interventions by the youths.

“If the act was done by an outsider, the youths would have protested. Moreover, the man is not denying what he did. So I am saying that even when we held a meeting yesterday (Tuesday) the issue of protest was not discussed,” he said.

A police source described the incident as “very pathetic family matter” and revealed that the community members wanted to intervene and see how they could handle it “but because the alleged murder had occurred the matter seems beyond them.”

Meanwhile, the suspect has since been transferred to the homicide unit of the Imo State Police Command in Owerri, the state capital.

The Imo State Police Spokesman, Orlando Ikokwu, who confirmed this in a telephone chat with our correspondent said that the DPO was directed to transfer the case file to Owerri for further investigation.

A resident, who saw the suspect being driven away in a police vehicle told South East Trust: “The man wound down the window-glass of the vehicle and said ‘bros, I’m going and you may not see me again’.

A resident said that in July 2017, the same man, Okpoka was said to have bought 25 litres of petrol with which he reportedly set their family houses ablaze owing to the sale of his motor-cycles by his sons without his knowledge.

Our correspondent gathered that before the embattled wine tapper burnt the houses, he went round the village and announced to whoever cared to listen that

his children should return his two motor-bikes or else he would take an action that would make front-page news in the newspapers.

“He even contacted the village heads – the chiefs and Nzes – and threatened that if the children did not bring back his motor-bikes with which he goes about his palm wine business, he was going to take a very drastic action on them, an action that they would live to tell till the end of their lives,” the source told our reporter.

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