

How Jos mechanic took a bullet to save wife from kidnappers



■ Iliyasu receiving treatment at JUTH



■ The wife, Nafisa Muhammad



■ Father of Iliyasu, Muhammad Hassan



■ The kidnapper who was killed by his colleague during the fight

Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

Nafisa Muhammad will never ever forget the sacrifice her lovely husband, Iliyasu Hassan, made to save her life from kidnappers who have been molesting and killing their victims unchallenged.

The family was already asleep in their home, located at Ring Road area of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State, when some criminals arrived the house, at about 11pm and asked them to open the door.

"My husband was already asleep, so I woke him up and said someone was knocking at the door. However, I had concluded that all was not well because it was already 11pm and virtually everyone has gone to bed," Nafisa said.

She said when the kidnappers realised that the family would not open the door, they forcefully opened it themselves.

"When they got into the room, they first asked us to surrender our phones to which my husband refused. But I later collected it and gave to them. After collecting the phones, they asked us to bring money to which my husband replied that he didn't have.

"They then asked me to follow them but my husband refused and suddenly held one of them because the kidnappers were two and only one was with a gun. They started fighting and struggling for over 30 minutes and nobody to come to our rescue because it was late," she said.

"Realising that the fight was serious, the one with the gun shot at my husband and the bullet pierced his mouth and came out through his jaw."

The wife explained that the bandit with the gun, in an attempt to shoot her husband again, mistakenly shot his colleague on the stomach and realising that he was almost dead, he fled and left him in the house.

Why I sacrificed to save my wife - Husband
The husband while explaining his ordeal said different thoughts came to his mind when the kidnappers decided to go with his wife.

"Whenever the kidnappers abduct people, they do it freely without anybody saying anything to them or resisting their action. In some cases, relatives of the victims are subjected to sever punishment before victims are whisked away and it is unacceptable.

"If they had gone with my wife, I wouldn't know what they would do to her, so I said to myself 'let the worst happen'. I shielded my wife and told them that she would not go with them. The kidnappers were two and unexpectedly, I held one and we started fighting for more than

30 minutes.

"I felt we've had enough of these atrocities. We should not continue to surrender to criminals who are not ready to repent. If they succeed today, they will go back to commit the same crime," the husband added.

On whether he is regretting his action considering that it has put him in a critical condition, Iliyasu said "Not at all. I'm not regretting. I had already sacrificed my life. That is not an issue at all. We have to begin to challenge these criminals. It is high time we stood up to them.

"I thank all those who have contributed to save my life in the hospital. A lot people have shown concerned. That will not be forgotten," he added.

I'm proud of my son - Iliyasu's father

Muhammad Hassan, the father of Iliyasu, told *Daily Trust Saturday* is proud of his son for standing up to the criminals and not abandoning his wife.

"Someone from the area phoned me around 12 midnight that my son was shot by kidnappers and was severely injured. Soon after I was informed, I went to Anguwan Rogo Police Divisional Headquarters to report the case. Thereafter, myself and the police personnel drove to the scene where we met Iliyasu in a pool of blood.

"At first, I didn't believe he would survive but one of the police officers suggested we should take him to hospital. We quickly moved him to Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) where he underwent surgery.

"I'm proud of my son for taking that bold step to confront the criminals. We have to challenge them because we can't continue to behave like sheep. They are human beings like us. I am really proud of my son," the father said.

I'll forever live to remember my husband's sacrifice - Wife

Iliyasu's wife said she would never forget her husband's bravery and sacrifice for her. "If I was not the one involved, I wouldn't have believed that a husband can make such huge sacrifice for his wife like they way my husband did for me. I was surprised. I honestly couldn't believe it.

"He did everything to save my life. If not for what he did to protect me, he wouldn't have been in this condition. I know it was not an easy sacrifice because not all men would do this. I pray Allah to grant him quick recovery. The love and sacrifice he showed me would forever be in my memory. I call on other men to emulate his tenacity, Nafisa added.