

How motorcyclist caused Kano- based lawyer's death

The flag of the legal profession flew at half-mast in Kano on Monday this week in respect to the death of Suleiman Abdulqadir, one of the eight Senior Advocates of Nigeria in Kano who died in a car crash. **Weekly Trust** reports.

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FAMILIES, friends and colleagues of late 47-year-old Suleiman Abdulqadir (SAN), are still in shock and disbelief over his sudden death which occurred on Friday, December 17, 2010 at Tashar Lamba, along Jaji, Kaduna State, after a car crash involving a motorcyclist. He was on his way to Kano from Abuja. Most courts adjourned their cases in honor of their distinguished colleague in order to attend his third-day prayer. His colleagues in the Kano branch of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) were all at his residence throughout Monday.

An old friend of the deceased who visited the accident scene, Barrister Abubakar Sadiq Umar, told *Weekly Trust* that the police informed him that the accident was caused by a reckless motor-cyclist. "On Friday around 3 pm, someone from Abuja phoned me that Suleiman had an accident at Jaji on his way to Kano from Abuja and he is dead including two persons he gave a lift to. I asked which Suleiman and the person

still trying his line with the hope that he will answer and it was saying switched off. On my way back, I stopped at Kwanar Farakwai police station and the O.C took me to the accident spot. The O.C told me that it was one reckless motorcyclist conveying fuel in a jerry can who suddenly crossed the road at Tashar Lamba and in confusion, the deceased hit the cyclist, somersaulted and the car burst into flames because of the fuel the cyclist was conveying. The four of them including the cyclist died at the spot."

Umar said it was after he saw the charred remains of the vehicle and burnt documents which the late Suleiman was travelling with that he became fully convinced that his friend was no more. "When I got to the scene of the accident, I saw the car and his handwriting and signature on the burnt documents that was in his car. It was then it dawned on me that my beloved friend of 20 years was no more. His family, friends, neighbor and I have lost someone dependable, reliable, respectful, religious, hardworking, generous and down to earth. We pray for Allah to grant him Aljannah. From the testimonies we have received, he lived a good life. It is now left for us, friends

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and families to maintain the bond with the immediate family he left behind," Umar said. Wife of the deceased, Hajiya Amina Suleiman Abdulqadir, who was still in shock, spoke to *Weekly Trust*. The conversation ended abruptly when her two-year old son, Abdulqadir, sauntered in and was asking of "Baba". At that point, she burst in to tears. She informed *Weekly Trust* that she spoke with her husband that same Friday. "The last time I saw him was on Sunday, December 12. That was the day he left for Abuja and I went to Jos. He called me that fateful

Friday and informed me that he was coming to Kano. He asked me to pray for him as usual for a safe journey and here we are. My husband was a very loving, caring, religious and God fearing person. He never cared much about the world. He always advised me to live in peace with everybody. May Allah have mercy on him and grant him Aljannah Firdausi", she said amidst tears.



LATE Suleiman Abdulqadir, SAN

Barrister Ishola Nuruddeen, another close friend of the deceased and state coordinator of the Legal Aid Council, Kano, said he still believes that Suleiman Abdulqadir is still on his way from Abuja. "Look I can't speak about Suleiman Abdulqadir in the past tense. It is difficult to do that. Even as we are doing this three day, prayer now (Monday), I still don't believe he is dead. Whatever I am today, he contributed 70 percent to it. I came to Kano in 1998 to head the Legal Aid Council alone. When I was introduced to him, we instantly blended. He was five years my senior at the University of Sokoto but he told me that I should feel free with him. He gave me access to his library and told me that anytime I needed money, I should not hesitate to ask. He once told me that he can't ride a N4 million car when there are people suffering. He never owned a building but he built a house for his mother."

Meanwhile, members of the Kano State branch of the NBA had during an extraordinary meeting convened on Monday resolved to establish a trust fund to cater for the welfare of the family of the legal luminary and to sponsor the

education of his children. Confirming the decision of members to shoulder the responsibility of the family, the current NBA chairman in Kano, Barrister Abdurrazak Aikawa, disclosed the setting up of a committee for the trust fund, saying their action was borne out of recognition for the deceased's dedication and unflinching support for the growth and development of the Kano NBA.

At the emergency meeting held in honor of their late colleague, the lawyers agreed to raise an intervention fund for the support of the family, in addition to some money already said to have been forwarded to the family in line with the practice of the state bar for the handing of such amount to families of any deceased legal practitioner, *Weekly Trust* learnt.

Late Abdulqadir is respected among legal practitioners for rejuvenating the state's chapter of the NBA during his reign as chairman. He was said to have made it mandatory for all members to attend the meetings of the body which before then, had gone near comatose. Barrister Aikawa noted that many lawyers became interested in the activities of the association at the state level because of the senior lawyer.

Late Abdulqadir is survived by a wife and three children. He was called to bar in 1990 and continued to practice in Kano where he established the famous Suleiman Abdulqadir & Co. law firm on Ibrahim Taiwo Road. Two years before his tragic death, he got elevated to the prestigious position of Senior Advocate of Nigeria.