

# Mentally-deranged man axes mother to death

**T**RAGEDY struck in Makurdi on Tuesday night as a young man, Terser Atim, used an axe to butcher his mother, Madam Atim to death in their home, opposite the Zone 4 Police Headquarters in the Benue State capital.

The *Guardian* learnt that that Mr. Atim who suffers from mental retardation, has been a violent person over the years, but his action took neighbours by surprise, as they said that Atim has never used weapon on anyone, besides his usual fighting in the area.

An eye witness t, Mr. Joesph Wantu, Benue

*From Simeon Nwakaudu, Makurdi*

State Bureau Chief of Leadership Newspapers told *The Guardian* that neighbours were attracted to the scene as they heard the Mrs. Atim wailing for help.

According to him: "By the time we got to their house, Mr. Terser Atim was using the axe to dismember his mother. He broke the skull and cut open other parts of her body. It was a gory sight. Some youths were able to overpower him and disarm him. I personally called the police".

Another witness, Tina Emberga, who lives in the same compound

with the deceased and her son, claimed that the problem started in a rather awkward manner.

She said that Mr. Terser Atim had picked up the family axe and was heading out of the compound, when the mother sensing danger, asked him 'Daddy (Terser's pet name), where he was going with the axe'. The mentally-retarded man was said to have turned back and answered, 'to kill you'.

At that point, Terser was said to have turned and dealt the mother a blow with the axe on her leg. The woman misjudged the intensity of the cut, attempting to run, only to slump. Terser dealt several other blows on his mother's head, leading to her death on the spot.

The police arrived the scene of the crime shortly after they received the distress call. They took Terser into custody and took the corpse to the mortuary of a government hospital in town.

The Benue State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, confirmed that the death of Mrs. Atim was as a result of wounds she sustained from axe cuts from her son.

Jinadu said the police would investigate the matter to ascertain the sanity of Mr. Terser Atim, before taking the next line of action.

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