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Wednesday, September 03, 2008

In Benin, landlord beats tenant to death*From Alemma-Ozioruva Aliu, Benin*

SHOCK and grief yesterday seized residents of 11 Isirukhe Street Benin when a 70 year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by his landlord for not flushing the toilet after use.

The old man, The Guardian gathered, may have been drunk when he used the toilet and did not flush it.

The landlord was said to have attacked the man, beating him mercilessly which he could not resist due to his age and weaknesses resulting from his drunken state.

In the process, the landlord inflicted serious facial and head injuries on the old man who was said to have bled to death from the nose and ears.

He was said to have been abandoned in the toilet until his relatives called the attention of the police in Benin

It was learnt that the police were on the trail of the escaping suspect who works with the Edo City Transport Company and who inherited the property from his late father.

Attempts to speak with the Police Public Relations Officer in Edo State Police Command, Mr. Peter Ogbi, yesterday were unsuccessful.

All the residents at 11 Isirukhe Street as at yesterday when The Guardian visited the place had fled apparently for fear of being arrested.

It was further learnt that the people in the area were apprehensive because those taken away to the headquarters of the police command were allegedly asked to pay to secure bail for themselves.

There was fear in the neighbourhood as suspicious residents of the adjoining streets peeped from their windows and refused to make any comment on the issue._

A middle aged woman, who sells akara in the neighbourhood, took to her heels yesterday morning when she saw journalists thinking they were policemen.

Sources said that the men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the Edo State Police Command, raided the area and arrested several young men in the neighbourhood in connection with the incident on Monday._

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