

Why Did Policemen Kill Their Colleague?

of the station.

Investigation by The Guardian revealed that the murder of the Senior Police Officer might have been premeditated as impeccable sources at the headquarters told the newspaper that "Someone had spotted... a senior officer pointing at the Suzuki Jeep of the slain officer

parked at the station with an occupant on the front seat on the day of the incident."

"When I spotted that officer who left his station for the headquarters pointing at that vehicle, I did not suspect that anything was amiss; but it was when the news filtered in that Ukwa had been murdered that now drew my mind back to that incident that happened the day before," he said.

Another source said that Ukwa could not have offended anybody, stressing that it was "wicked for anybody to label him a kidnapper or armed robber"

"Since he started with the Police in 1989, he has kept his cool and stayed out of trouble. Do you know what it means to head the armoury of the Police? This is where all the guns and bullets are supplied and you don't allow just any kind of person to work here. What it means that there is a level of trust bestowed on the officer. Ukwa was not any kind of person and it is unfortunate that somebody could hound him down and brand him an armed robber or kidnapper. It is sad," he said.

Stressing that the killing was well planned, he wondered when the Police force allowed officers to use firearms at will, explaining that even the Police Constable who was part of the check point carried gun, and in fact reportedly fired the first shot at the victim.

The National Human Rights Practitioners Corp has petitioned the Inspector General of Police, calling for a judicial commission of inquiry to be headed by a senior judge in the state, stressing that the alleged involvement of the

then DPO of Independence Layout Police Station is being covered.

It alleged that the DPO, who had been in Enugu since he started Police work had been moving about freely while those "he used to commit the evil are lavishing in Police custody, following his boast that he has the connection to stop the matter."

The body in a statement signed by James Ogbuke, further alleged that the then DPO is riding on the support of a DIG at Abuja to ensure that justice is not done in the matter, and called for the prosecution of the DPO, who is now in charge of Protocol Department of the Enugu command. He was transferred to the department after residents threatened to punish

The body decried the abuse in the force and wondered how a Police Constable could have ordinarily been the first to fire a gun in the midst of senior officers when he was not supposed to carry a gun in the first place.

Since the incident, Mrs Mary Ukwa, wife of the deceased officer, Mrs Mary Ukwa, has been a psychological wreck. Her greatest problem is how to raise a family of six. She keeps wondering why those now detained still collect salaries which they use to take care of their families, while she is left to cater for the family.

"They should have killed me instead. I don't know what he did to the people that killed him. He was not the troublesome type. I heard it was due to this apartment, but I know he never struggled for it and we only moved in here around Easter this year," she sobbed.

... That Nnabuihe May See Again

By Joseph Okoghenun and Afoma Mordi

MARTINS Chris Nnabuihe's dream of practicing the law profession is being threatened by severe eye complications called corneal decomposition from alleged poorly executed surgical operation.

According to Nnabuihe, the eye problem started several years ago when he was still a law student at the University of Lagos (UNILAG). Immediately, he visited the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), where he was diagnosed with mild cataract.

He wanted it to be operated on immediately, but ophthalmologists advised him to allowed it grow further before removing the clouding from the eye lens.

He adhered to the advised religiously until he rounded off his studies in UNILAG in 2004.

"After my graduation, I thought since law school was just a year programme, I did not want anything that would interfere with the programme. I thought it wise to go and extract the cataract," Nnabuihe said. But that simple decision, unknown to him, would see him out of the law school and trigger off lots of complications. Probably, because he wanted quick service not minding the cost, he "went to a Medical Centre (names withheld) at Ikorodu", Lagos, for the extraction.

At the hospital, the 41-year-old Nnabuihe said he met more than he had bargained for. "It was at the Medical Centre that the complications arose. I thought the treatment would take just two days. But the ophthalmologist, Dr. A. (names withheld) put me in the hospital for three weeks. I was weak. I could not lie down with either of my sides. I went to the ophthalmologist to ask 'what is actually wrong? Why have you not discharged me?' She told me that since I am living far away, she wanted me to recover before discharging me. She did the operation twice within a week. The second time, she told me that she wanted to put lens into the eyes. I told her 'why not wait for the one you have done already to heal before you put in the lens?'"

"But there was no improvement. If I am looking at a single electric bulb, for instance, it would appear as many as 50 bulbs. It was not like that before the surgery. I told her to refer me to her consultant since she did not want to refer me to another hospital. She told me emphatically she had no consultant.

"After three weeks, she told me that she wanted to discharge me. I told her that the situation had not changed for the better. She said I should come back in the next two weeks, which I did. When I got there, she told me that she would be travelling in the next two weeks. And that whenever I came, one Kenny, who I suppose is an optician, would be attending to me. After the two weeks, I went to the hospital to see Kenny. He refused to attend to me, and rather referred me to the woman's husband, a general practitioner (GP) medical doctor. It was

at that point that I concluded that those people were playing with my life," Nnabuihe revealed.

Meanwhile, he was posted to Nigerian Law School, Abuja, but had to ask for re-posting to Lagos for the one-year programme. As he saw that there was no improvement in the eye, he not only deferred his law school programme indefinitely, he also approached LUTH for better care.

"It was at LUTH that a team of ophthalmologists with a consultant examined me and found out that there was cornea decomposition and secondary glaucoma. At LUTH, they told me that there was complication, and that the first thing they would do to save the eye was to remove the lens the woman put there," he said.

Nnabuihe, who is from Imo State, said, he had to rush to Ikorodu the next day to confront the Ajayis with his new facts. But when he got there "they (the As.) started begging

me that I should not expose them. They promised that they would join me in prayers so that whatever LUTH will do would be right."

He later went back to LUTH for the surgery, but was surprised when the consultant, Dr. Arebaba, "chastised me for going to Ikorodu to confront the woman," adding that the woman got in touch with him, asking him why he did reveal everything to me.

LUTH later performed the surgery to remove the lens. He was later referred to St. Moorfields Eye Centre in London in 2004. He managed to raise part of the money for the London treatment. Because the problem could not be tackled once, he was given six months appointment, which elapsed last year, May 24, to complete the treatment.

"Unfortunately, from then till now, all efforts to raise the money to go back to the hospital for treatment have not yielded fruits."

A letter from the hospital signed by Dr. John Brookes, a consultant ophthalmologist, reads in part: "His eye pressure has increased again and if this is not treated appropriately, he will lose vision completely and irreversibly. I would strongly recommend glaucoma surgery, which would require a glaucoma tube implant. This will prevent any further visual loss. I would recommend this operation as a matter of urgency to prevent any further loss of vision."

He is in need of over 10,000 pounds to go to London for the treatment. "I want Nigerians to extended their hands of charity to me," he pleaded.

Those wishing to assist Nnabuihe can reach him through or donate to:
Bank: Diamond
Name: Martins Chris Nnabuihe
Account No: 004106004407
Or call 08035010743, 016594894



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