

Police Probe Into Bizman's Murder In Owerri

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CORRESPONDENT Owerri

Imo State Police Command has begun investigations into the murder of a businessman, Mr. Ugochukwu Ezenwere, who was murdered by suspected hired assassins in the wee hours of Wednesday.

Sources who spoke to *Daily Independent* that the assassins may have broken through the wall into his the home of the late businessman at Naze, in Owerri West Local Government Area rebuking all pleas and cash presentations made to them before he was shot several times at close range.

Ezenwere, the owner of a furniture company both in Port Harcourt and Owerri made several efforts to placate his assailants when it was clear that they had

come to take away his life.

His death, it was learnt has sent shock waves across the length and breadth of Owerri and its environs as the deceased was never known to have been involved in partisan politics as he had fully focused on his furniture business from the beginning.

Our correspondent gathered that Ezenwere had no primonition of death as he went to sleep after closing shop the previous day. He was said to have joined his family for the usual prayers for the night without any inkling that death was lurking around the corner.

Sources went on to aver that at about 1a.m. the family was shocked to discover that their walls were caving in and within a twinkle of an eye, hefty men carrying sophisticated weapons and cutlasses emerged from nowhere

to hold the household to ransom before eventually killing their victim. They were said to have forced open the room where the victim was where he was awoken, thinking that his assailants were mere armed bandits he went ahead to offer them the keys to his jeep as well as cash said to be running into millions of naira.

These however could not appease the assassins as one of them shouted "now boys, its time to finish our job" and shot him at close range on the stomach while other bullets were fired into his chest.

Sources also said that the men stayed behind to ensure that he died before making their escape through the same route they had earlier gained entry, leaving him in a pool of his own blood.

It was the wailing and shouting of the family members that at-

tracted other members of the estate to the scene but all efforts to trace the assassins or revive him became fruitless.

The matter was reported to the nearby police station while the corpse was removed to an undisclosed hospital where efforts were made to extract the bullets that caused his death.

Contacted, Police Public Relations Officer, Superintendent Isah Bala Mohammed confirmed the incident and said that already the state's Commissioner of Police, Mr. John Morenike had ordered a full scale investigation into the incident.

He regretted the killing but assured that the police would get to the root of the matter adding that it was the victim's wife and mother that alerted the command of the dastardly incident.