

# Detectives Wade Into Murder Of Five Women In Imo

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Detectives from the State Criminal Investigation Department of the Imo State Police Command have taken over the probe into the murder of five women in Amaukwu village in Onicha area of Ezinihitte Mbaise Local Government Council.

The suspected murderer whose name was given by the police as Bartholomew Uzoegbu, was alleged to have hacked the women, mostly comprising his relations as well as family friends, to death in one fell swoop at the weekend.

Dependable police sources told *Daily Independent* that the real motive for the action was yet to be ascertained, but that Bartholomew ran amok and started cutting everything

within sight.

It was gathered that on the fateful day, he had woken up from sleep complaining of strange feelings and seeking to discuss the issue with some of his male relatives, who before he got out of bed had gone to the farm.

But within a twinkle of an eye, he was said to have rushed into the room and ran out with a cutlass and the first victim he saw was 82 year-old Madam Felicia Uzoegbu, whom he dealt a mortal blow sending her to the ground amidst shouting and wailing from the dying women.

Upon hearing the shout of Felicia his next victim Miss Ngozi Uzogara 40 years, who was visiting the family, then, ran out to ascertain what must have gone amiss, only to meet Bartholomew rushing towards her and raising his cutlass.

Before she could make good her escape, the cutlass had landed on her left shoulder, thereby severing her arm, which also caused her to cry out in anguish and pain, while gradually yielding to the torture of imminent death.

As the wailing continued his third victim Mrs. Ngozi Raphael 35, who was passing by at that moment also peeped to find out what was happening but could not live to tell the story, as she was also cut down with the same bloodied cutlass.

The wailing in the compound continued, attracting 95-year-old Madam Cecilia Uzoegbu, who ran out with her walking stick to find out its cause, but was also murdered in cold blood as her assailant hacked her into bits.

Sources further said that 40

year-old Mrs. Martina Uzoegbu who was returning from the farm was also not spared as Bartholomew killed her in spite of her pleadings to spare her life.

As soon as he saw the five corpses lying in the pool of their own blood, Bartholomew escaped from the house and ran to a neighbouring village where he took refuge in an abandoned building still armed with his weapon of death.

The incident was reported at the Police Division in Itu, headquarters of Ezinihitte Mbaise, from where homicide detectives were detailed to the scene of the incident and an on-the-spot investigation was conducted before the corpses were removed to the Ogbona Hospital Mortuary.

Speaking with *Daily Independent* on the incident, the spokesman of the Imo State Command,

Superintendent Felix Nwaiwu said the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ahmed Yusuf, himself and some officers immediately moved to the scene of the incident.

"We condoled with the family and also ordered the Divisional Police Officer to do everything within his powers to ensure that the suspect was arrested and brought to book without delay," he said.

He maintained that the suspect was later located at his hideout and that everything possible was made to apprehend him alive was done, but to no avail as he continued to do battle with the police with the murder weapon.

He continued that it was in the process that he was shot and later picked up, but that he died as he was being rushed to the hospital for treatment.

The police image maker said that the matter was later transferred to the SCID for detailed investigations adding that he would not say much now investigations are still on-going.