

# Man Collapses, Dies, As FCDA Demolishes His House

By Rotimi Akinwumi  
CORRESPONDENT, Abuja

A middle-aged man has reportedly slumped and went into coma when officials of the Federal Capital Development Agency (FCDA) demolished his house at Gosa, a village along Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

The man, simply identified as Ismail, an indigene of Kogi State, according to his friend, Shehu Mahmud, who related the incident to Daily Independent, eventually died same day at a private hospital in Lugbe, where he was rushed to,

for medical attention.

Gosa, one of the settlements in Abuja, about 10 kilometers away from the airport, has been under siege of the FCDA who began its demolition last week Tuesday.

Houses belonging to non-indigenes were demolished while those of Gbagyi, people considered as indigenes of Abuja, were left standing pending when government would be through with its plan for their relocation.

Sources close to the FCDA told *Daily Independent* that the non-indigenes were notified of the impending demolition more than two months ago, but that most

refused to remove their valuables and vacate the settlement.

The deceased was reported to have been sick in the last three weeks, and believed to be returning from the same hospital he was later rushed to when he collapsed.

Said to be suffering from undisclosed ailment, he was alleged to have left the hospital that same day out of frustration as he could not procure the drugs prescribed for him by the doctor, prompting his resolve to seek alternative solution to his health condition by opting for herbal medication.

Ismail was said to be married to an Ogoja woman who ran away

with their two children about two months ago when the family's financial situation became extremely precarious.

He reportedly lost his balance and fell backward, hitting his head against a stump, on seeing FCDA tractors pull down his house.

Eyewitnesses said he bled from mouth and nose as a result of the fall, and was rushed to the private hospital where he was said to have died about 30 minutes later.

His remain, according to Mahmud, was taken home for burial in his village by his relations, same Friday.

Efforts to obtain the comment of the Police Public Relations Officer of the FCT were unsuccessful as calls made to his mobile phone did not go through.