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How jealous lover kidnapped, killed rival in Niger

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By Chinwendu Nnadozie *Snr Correspondent, Minna*

The beastly nature and wickedness of man, created by God in his own image, was on display in Minna, the Niger State capital when a live-in lover, Mr. Ikechukwu Ifedi and Juliet with their accomplice, Victor Ibegbu kidnapped and killed an ex-corps member, Kingsley Chidozie Elekwachi for allegedly having an affair with Juliet during their one-year national service in Niger State.

Late Elekwachi who hails from Imo State and was an Architecture graduate of Federal Polytechnic, Oko in Anambra State, investigations by our correspondent revealed, died hours after he went into coma after he was forced to swallow nine tablets of diazepam, a bottle of gin and three bottles of beer.

Ifedi is a businessman from Ebonyi State dealing in both clothing and cosmetics, while his live-in lover, Juliet also from the same state is an Accounting graduate from Ebonyi State University. The road to the discovery of his other side of life started when a relation of Kingsley, Mr. Ben Jude petitioned the State Security Services (SSS), Niger State command about the disappearance of Elekwachi with National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) batch number NG1080107; he was among corps members that passed out in July 2011.

Mr. Ben Jude had recalled that the said Elekwachi sneaked back into Minna, on October 9 on the invitation of a female friend, whom though not known to the family members but was said to be in constant touch with the deceased. Since his departure to Minna, Elekwachi had not been seen and communication through his mobile phone ceased shortly after he arrived his Minna destination, prompting the family to suspect foul play.

It was gathered that Elekwachi who is an indigene of Awomama in Oru-East local government council of Imo State had met Juliet during their two weeks orientation at the NYSC camp in Paiko, Paikoro local council of Niger State and a relationship developed between the two without Juliet informing the deceased that she was engaged or married.

Ikechukwu Ifedi, who may have been nursing the plan to reconcile with Juliet or presumably had a sinister motive soon found out about the relationship going on between her and late Elekwachi through text messages to her mobile phone which he intercepted for some time and started monitoring her.

Full of jealousy over what could have been going on between the two lovers behind his back, Ifedi allegedly pressurised Juliet to invite the deceased corps member who had completed his NYSC and left the state to Minna.

Late Elekwachi was said to have left for Minna on October 9, 2011, about four months after the completion of his mandatory NYSC on the invitation on Juliet, and was not seen or heard from since then.

The lady at the centre of the crime, Juliet, who is a graduate of Accountancy from the Ebonyi State University, Abakiliki

and Ifedi allegedly conspired with one Victor Ibegbu, picked up the victim on his arrival in Minna and took him straight to the Ifedi's residence near mobile quarters, Tunga area, Minna.

Director of the SSS in Niger State, Dr. Larry Obiagwu, who paraded the suspects before newsmen at the command's headquarters in Minna, said that the 'husband and wife' (Ikechukwu and Juliet) and their accomplice later locked up the deceased in one of the rooms where he was also chained hands and legs.

The deceased was said to have been chained in the room from the date of his arrival in Minna on October 9 to 14. He was reportedly tortured by his captors who also chastised him for daring to sleep with his 'wife'.

Obiagwu said after subjecting their victim to days of torture, the trio later forced their captor to ingest about nine tablets of diazepam (valium), along with gin and three bottles of beer which led to Elekwachi immediately going into a state of coma/unconsciousness.

Sensing danger, Obiagwu told journalists that Elekwachi's kidnappers, Ikechukwu and Victor, took their victim on a motorcycle and dumped him whilst on leg and hand chains at an isolated spot along the Minna eastern bye pass.

According to him, after the kidnapping and suspected killing of Elekwachi, the suspects perfected their next line of action by contacting the parents of the deceased to negotiate a ransom of N1 million.

After series of negotiations with the relatives of Kingsley in which they promised to release the victim, the family were

said to have paid the sum of N500,000 in two installments of N200,000 and N300,000 respectively to the suspects.

After thorough investigations, Obiagwu said a team of operatives led by himself visited the scene where the deceased was dumped on the October 13, 2011 and after combing the precincts it recovered bones believed to be that of a human being and may invariably be that of Kingsley which it has secured and shall be tendered as evidence when the suspects are arraigned in court.

Meanwhile, the prime suspect, Ifedi who claimed to be an evangelist with a church by name, "I am that I am ministry," in an interview admitted kidnapping the deceased and drugged him to a point that he went into coma but denied killing him.

Ifedi, a business man but with two different residences in Minna metropolis and is said to have another house in Lagos, presumably to enhance his trade, attributed his action to the unfaithfulness of Juliet who he claimed has been cheating on him despite nursing a two and half year-old baby.

The 28 years old Ifedi, who claimed to be a secondary school drop-out, accused his Accounting graduate wife, Juliet of having illicit affair with late Kingsley who always sent text messages to her on graphic details of their love making which enraged him, hence the plot to teach (Elekwachi) a lesson.

But Juliet on her own account dramatically stunned journalists and other passers-by when she insisted that although she is not legally married to Ifedi he was not a murderer as she only lured her secret lover (Elekwachi) to