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Police tortured my husband to death – Widow tells court

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By Odogwu Emeka Odogwu *Special Correspondent, Awka*

An Idemili High Court, Anambra State, presided over by Hon Justice Ike Ogu, was told on Thursday by a widow, Mrs. Roseline Nwakaego Mgbogo, that her late husband, Raymond Mgbogo, was tortured to death by the police at People's Club Police Post, Awada, in the presence of another accused person, Mr. Syriakus Nwozo.

According to her, "in my presence the police and Syriakus Nwozo were beating him at the Awada police post and then shut the door from my sight and I then ran to call my siblings".

She told the court that she was sure of what she was saying in her Evidence-in-Chief when being cross-examined by one of the defendants' counsels, Barrister Gabriel A. Oluwatuase, adding, "He was my husband and everything happened in my presence". My husband died in the car of Syriakus Nwozo not in the Peoples' Club Police Post after the torture".

When told by the counsel that from the medical report of the post mortem examination that he died as a result of dehydration, she objected stating that he died as a result of the police torture.

“My husband did not die because of dehydration but because of the beating by Syriakus and Police. “I said it at Awada Police Station that it was Syriakus and Police that tortured him to death”.

Asked by another counsel to the defendant, Barrister A.N Odo if she was aware that the police in their course of investigation exonerated Syriakus from the murder case, she said she was not aware. Speaking to newsmen shortly after the adjournment of the hearing by the presiding Judge, to December 1, 2014 and January 21, 2015, counsel to the widow, Anthony O. Obi said that the deceased was a contractor that supplies sand to builders and also supervises building sites for Mr. Syriakus Nwozo at Obiatiaso/ Ntueke Street, Awada.

He said Nwozo instructed the police at Peoples Club Police Post to torture to death the deceased unless he provided some rods which he reportedly kept on the site which he instructed the deceased to oversee.

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