

How Soldier Killed My Only Surviving Brother, Business Woman Tells Abia Panel

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A paper recycling business woman, Mrs. Esther Johnson Aghaunor, has narrated to the Abia State Panel on Police Brutality, Extra Judicial Killings and Other Related Matters of how his younger brother, Master Chukwudi Emmanuel Ijedinma, 30, was shot and killed by a Nigerian soldier at Ariaria Junction, Aba, about 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2020.

Mrs. Aghaunor who resides at No. 10, Ben Ohueri, By Nkume Street, Off Ariar-

ia Junction, Aba, made the disclosure while testifying before the State Judicial Panel of Inquiry headed by Retired Chief Judge of Abia State, Justice Sunday Imo, at Aguiyi Ironsi Conference Centre, Umuahia.

Mrs. Aghaunor further explained that her late brother "is the only son among eight children born to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ijedinma, and that as at the time he was gruesomely killed was not married nor had any child.

She recalled how his late brother was shot by a Nigerian soldier around the right eye as he was heading home after the close of their business, located in Enyimba

Plaza along Aba-Port Harcourt Express Way, Aba.

She said that according to eye-witness account who briefed her, late Chukwudi never challenged or exchanged a word with any soldier nor was he bearing weapon, when he was shot in cold blood.

She said when they got to the scene, Chukwudi was stone dead and we begged the soldiers to allow them carry the corpse of his younger brother but they refused.

"About an hour later, the soldiers brought their Hilux pick up van and took the dead body of Chukwudi and other four dead bodies and departed," she said.

About a week later, we learned that the soldiers threw body of my late brother into Ihie borrow pit, Ugwunagbo LGA.

On October 29, 2020, in company of my husband with assistance of the police at Ugwunagbo Divisional Police Headquarters we retrieved the remains of late Chukwudi and deposited him at Paradise Mortuary Facility Ihie, in Ugwunagbo LGA.

She posited that the gruesome killing of his younger brother without provocation and "justification is a wanton violation of his right to life."

The family then sought a relief for the payment of N50 million as compensation.