

61-year-old Man Dies In Police Custody

By Silas Ezeugwu

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A 61-year-old man from Republic of Benin, Mr. Francis Monhounso, allegedly died under the custody of the Wuse Zone 3 Police Station in Abuja on February 26, 2016.

The elderly man had on the previous day gone to POWA Shopping Centre in Nyanya with his friends to celebrate the birth of his new baby, but his joy was suddenly cut short by Policemen from Wuse Zone 3 Police Station who stormed POWA shopping complex in Nyanya and whisked him away.

According to the celebrant's son, Mr. Christian Monhounso, who is believed to be in his 30s, taking his father away that fateful day was lighter than what happened the following day – “my dad died in a private hospital we were referred to from Wuse General Hospital,” he disclosed.

Christian told our reporter that his father was arrested following a complaint by one Alhaji Aminu Babba Dan Agundi to the Police over contract disagreement and he was contacted that evening and he rushed to the station with his lawyer to take him on bail in vain.

“I went home that night and came back the following morning and saw my father lying unconscious with bruises and lacerations within the station premises. I started shouting and crying for help but was ignored until a policeman reporting for duty came to my rescue.

“He helped me to carry my father in a car from the station to Wuse General Hospital where from where we were referred to a private hospital in Abuja. They said they will operate him on the head and I rallied round to raise some money but my father later died,” he lamented.

Christian said his father was contracted by Alhaji Aminu Babba Dan Agundi to construct the Plaster of Paris (POP) at his residence in Kano and he duly performed the contract and was given another concrete pillar job.

“He was mobilized and did the job up to some level and asked for more money, but Alhaji Agundi told my father that he over charged him in the first job and needed a refund of N500,000 instead, which my father disagreed.

“That was what started the trouble and he vowed to deal with my father. I receive phone calls threatening my life from unknown persons since my father died,” Monhounso's son told our reporter.

He said his lawyer has petitioned the Inspector General of Police to ensure that justice is done in the matter.

When contacted, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Manga, said he was not aware of the incident, but will find out from Wuse Zone 3 Police Station.