

Widow: My life can never be same again

A WIDOW and mother of 10, Mrs. Ukeyima recalled how a gang of kid robbers aged between 11 and 15 stormed her residence in the Judges' Quarters, Makurdi, Benue State and killed their bread-winner, Mr. Ahua Ukeyima. **UJA EMMANUEL** reports.

WORDS of sympathy however well meaning were futile for Mrs. Ukeyima and her 10 children as a gang of kid robbers stormed their highbrow Judges' quarters in Makurdi, Benue State. They killed their bread-winner, Mr Ahua Ukeyima, an ex-serviceman.

The bandits stole undisclosed sum of money.

Narrating the gory incident to *The Nation*, Mrs. Ukeyima who sobbed during the interview, said before her husband who has retired successfully from the Army was killed, he was managing funds meant for military pensioners to purchase motorcycles.

The mother of 10 said that between 11pm and 12 midnight when her husband returned, there was movement of strange people in their compound, but she did not suspect anything.

However, when her husband arrived home that fateful day, he was tired and sat in the sitting room discussing family matters. About 20 minutes into the discussion, the door was flung open and a 15-year old boy armed with a gun came in and ordered her husband to lie face down.

"I was shocked that a 15-year old boy armed with a gun, who cannot even be his third son, could order my husband whom I have known all my life to lie

face down" said Mrs. Ukeyima. "The brave woman went into the kitchen, took an axe, and smashed the robber on the neck. There was struggle and the robber hit her hard on the hand and she let go the axe and started shouting thief! thief! but nobody came and she ran out of the house."

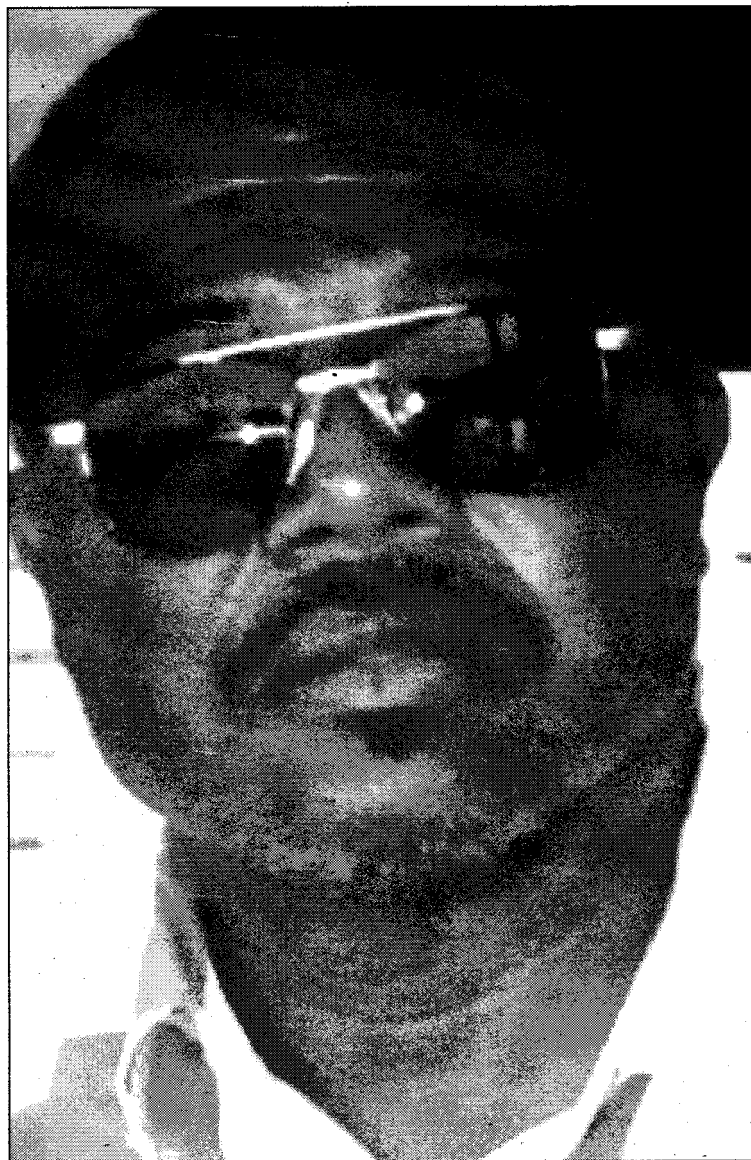
The robbers who were three took the axe and hacked down my husband and he fell down in the pool of blood.

Mrs. Ukeyima said she ran to a neighbour but the man was not around, she even ran to the private residence of Governor George Akume, which is a stone's throw from their home but she was shocked when the mobile policemen ignored her.

At this time, the robbers had ransacked the house and removed large sums of money and went away leaving her husband on the floor still bleeding.

For Mrs. Ukeyima, this was the beginning of another travail as effort to save her husband life was again frustrated by the policemen on duty at B.Division in the state capital. Instead of

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•The late Ukeyima

accepting the victim and accompanying them to the Federal Medical Centre Makurdi, the policemen referred them to Akpehe police post in Logol area which is still undergoing construction. At last Mrs. Ukeyima took her husband to the State Criminal Investiga-

tion Department (SCID) Makurdi where a policeman quickly assigned an officer to accompany them to the hospital.

It was, however, late as Mr. Ukeyima died before any help could reach him.

Mrs. Ukeyima said she would have been the one to die, had she known that her husband will die leaving her with the large number of children to cater for.

He was such a good human being and hope those who killed him will be arrested soon.