

Kinsman kills brother over family house in Port Harcourt

IT bloody Friday at D-Line, Port Harcourt, River State for the Igweh family when a younger member of the family reportedly stabbed his half brother to death over a portion of their father's house.

The widow who disclosed this in tears alleged that her husband, Mr Ben Igweh was killed by his half younger brother because of his (Ben's) refusal to let go his mother's inheritance in the father's compound.

She said she was in the room on that day with her husband when some of his workers drove into the compound with his goods from Benin.

Seeing the workers, the late Ben stepped out of the house to see them after which he went back inside to collect money to pay the driver.

"Suddenly, we heard the half brother that was outside, demanding to know who parked the car there. Even when they told him the person came to see his brother he was still shouting. This made my husband to run out. As he was heading towards the scene I warned him to be

From Clarice Azuatalam, Port Harcourt
careful of his brother.

"I was inside when I heard the sound of a broken bottle. I heard it again. As I was about rushing out, my husband was running in with blood all over his body. He collapsed on the floor and immediately died. People later ran in to assist him when they heard my wailing. They rushed him to the

hospital where they were told he had died," Mrs Igweh said.

She recalled that her husband's half brother allegedly killed him over a lingering family rivalry. Trouble started between the half brothers when the late Ben was asked to move out of the two rooms allocated to the mother

"My husband was living in two rooms while his

mother was living in the other two rooms. By Ikwerre's tradition you do not take back a house that you give to your wife even after her death. My father-in-law wanted back the house he had already given to my own mother-in-law now that she is no more so that he could give it to his other children. But my husband reminded him of the tra-

dition. That is how the strained relationship between the two brothers started."

After her husband died, Mrs Igweh said that the matter was reported to the police on that same day it happened.

But the DPO of Olu Obasanjo Police Station, Port Harcourt where the issue was reported to, referred *The Nation* to the state Police PRO, Mrs. Baresua Ireju.

Why INEC cleared Orji Kalu, by Iwu

CHAIRMAN of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Maurice Iwu said yesterday that the clearance of the Presidential candidate of the Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA) and Governor of Abia State, Dr. Uzor Orji Kalu to contest the April 21 presidential elections, was sequel to an order made by an Umuahia Court in Abia State.

Prof. Iwu, who appeared before the House of Representatives' committee on Electoral Matters, headed by Hon. Hamisu Shira,

From Lateef Ibrahim, Abuja

similarly revealed how two of the registered political parties fooled the commission concerning the list of candidates for elections.

The INEC Chairman, who was accompanied to the National Assembly by top officials of the commission however made it clear that the general elections would hold as scheduled.

Also in attendance at the interactive meeting were; the Accountant-General of the Federation, Alhaji

Ibrahim Dankwambo, the Director-General, Budget Office, Mr. Bode Augusto as well as representatives of the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Due Process office.

Prof. Iwu declared that the PPA Presidential candidate, Governor Orji Kalu was originally not on the final list of candidates to be cleared for the presidential election, pointing out that an order by a Court in Umuahia was what made the commission to clear him.

According to him: "We respect court orders. We

have obeyed all court orders. We don't choose which court order to obey."

He stated that the Commission would appeal against the Umuahia court order, which compelled it to clear Governor Kalu.

The INEC Chairman described legal disputes as "part of democratic process."

Prof. Iwu pointed out that those who may feel aggrieved over their exclusion from participating in the elections still have a good opportunity to prove their cases before the Elections Tribunal.