

Police arrest family of five over alleged murder

• Bereaved hubby cries for justice

THE Police in Okpoko, Ogbaru Local Government area of Anambra State have arrested a family of five, including a woman politician, Mrs. Grace Odenigbo, her husband, Nicholas and their three children for their alleged involvement in the murder of a 45-year old woman, Mrs. Benedeth Ohagwusi.

The incident, according to a police source, occurred at about 10.30pm on August 19, during an alleged fracas between the deceased, her family on one side, and the suspect and her own family.

The source said, the late Mrs. Ohagwusi, a hotelier, residing with her family at No. 59B Corporative Lane, Okpoko, in Ogbaru council area, near the commercial city of Onitsha, had just finished preparing some iced fish for the next day and laid down on top of a soak-away slab to rest when some unidentified fellow tenant allegedly poured water on her from the third floor of the three-storey building.

As the deceased and her husband, Abel Ohagwusi were still protesting the incident, the suspects allegedly poured another bucket, prompting the victim to start shouting the names of the suspects and warning them.

The shouting, the source



• IGP Mike Okiro

From Adimike George, Onitsha

alleged resulted in the suspects coming down from their third floor apartment for fisticuffs.

As the fight progressed, the source said, the suspects, who were allegedly armed with matchets, daggers, bottles, pestle and other dangerous weapons, unknown to the victims, allegedly inflicted matchet cuts on the deceased before clubbing her to death with the pestle.

According to the source, the suspects fled as the deceased slumped and became unconscious.

Some of the suspects were said to have run upstairs and locked themselves in, while others ran out of the compound for fear of arrests

or possible reprisal attacks from other tenants.

The deceased later died in a private hospital.

All the five suspects were arrested the next morning from their different hideouts by a joint team of policemen from Okpoko police station and Okpoko vigilante group.

They were detained for some days before they were transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department of the State Police Command.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) at Okpoko, Mr. Tafida Sale (CSP), who confirmed the incident and arrests of the suspects in a telephone chat, said they had been transferred to the state CID for thorough investigations.

The State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Fidelis Agbo (DSP), who confirmed the arrests, said investigations are still in progress.

Agbo, however noted that he was yet to be properly briefed on the detailed reports of the incident, as at Press time.

The widower, Abel Ohagwusi, who hails from Umuduru Egbeaguru in Onuimo Council Area of Imo State, amid tears and wailing, called on the appropriate government authorities to ensure that justice prevails.