

Trouble over murder of Enugu undergraduate

• My son's killers are
being shielded,
father cries out

For late Kingsley Obinna Nnamchi, the sky was the limit as far as his academic pursuit was concerned. As a 300 level student of Electrical Engineering at the Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), he engaged in menial jobs to ensure that his educational dream was not jeopardised. At his Attakwu village, on the outskirts of Enugu, his pastime was the tending of the domestic animals in his family compound kept for commercial purposes.

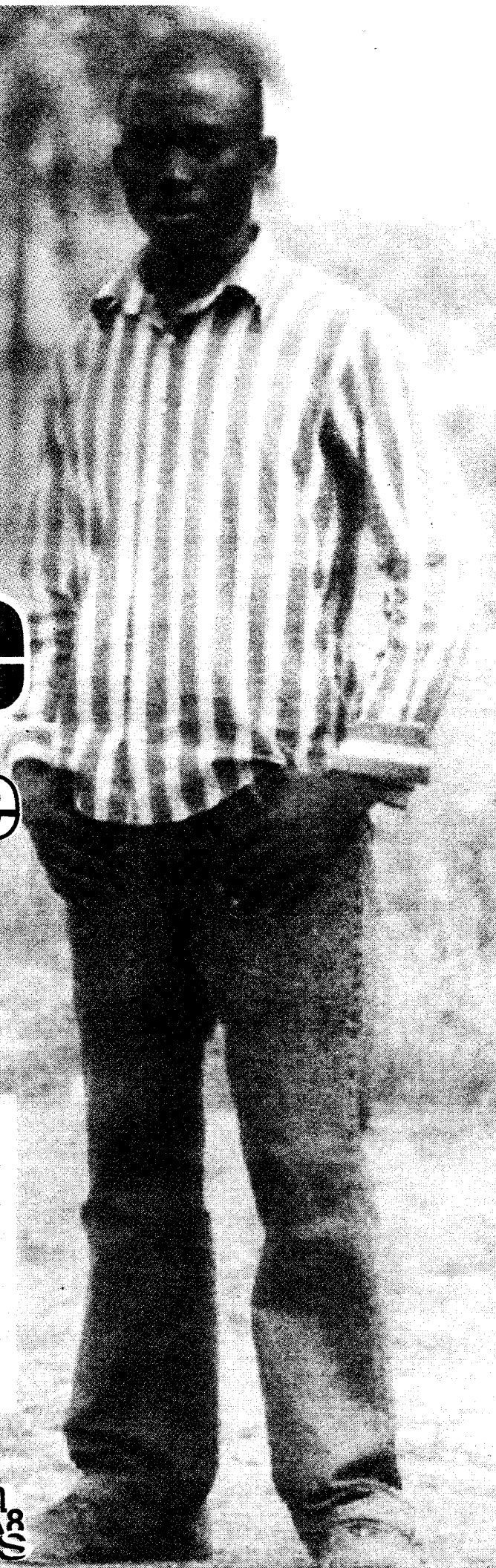
Besides, he was helping his father in his mason job. He did not care about his status. All he was interested in was to make enough money for his education.

Continued on P. A3



Silhouette

Seething cauldron
of Representatives



Cut down in his prime

• Father cries out: I know my son's killers, but they're being shielded • Police: why we can't make arrests

• Continued from Page A1

Kingsley was not the type who wallowed in pride before success. All he was concerned with was the day he would graduate as an engineer and salvage his family from the grips of poverty. His parents as well as his siblings were all hopeful that soon, Kingsley would bring them out of the grips of want and penury.

But all the dreams and expectations could no longer materialise as Kingsley's life was cut short at the age of 25 right at the market square of his Attakwu village. It happened on September 17, 2008 when Kingsley was shot dead while returning from Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) office, Enugu where he was an intern. He was allegedly shot by a group of youths said to be working for an influential member of the community over a protracted tussle regarding the traditional stool of the community.

Kingsley's parents, Okafor and Azuka Nnamchi, after waiting fruitlessly for days and weeks for justice to be done over the killing of their son now want the Inspector-General of Police, Mike Okiro, to intervene in the matter. Kingsley's father, Okafor whose occupation is masonry, is shouting foul over the delay in dispensing justice in the matter. He is pleading with the IG and the Enugu State government to ensure that the killers of Kingsley did not go scot-free. Okafor said those who shot his son were all known members of the community and that they have been walking about ever since without arrest.

Okafor is alleging that the assailants have behind them some powerful members of the community who have been shielding them from justice.

Said Okafor: "The murderers of my son are going about their business. They are being backed by a powerful clique in the community led by a serving commissioner in the state."

Up till now, my son's corpse is in the mortuary awaiting autopsy. We have done everything within our reach to see that the killers were brought to book but each time there was obstacle on the way.

All I want now is for the Inspector-General of Police and the Enugu State government to intervene in the matter. Neither my son nor myself was involved in the chieftaincy tussle. Why should they sacrifice my son for a matter that does not concern us?"

Okafor said that his son was not the type that would engage in violence. "Eye witnesses said he was returning to the village that evening when he got caught up in the raid by the hired youths who were shooting indiscriminately, aiming at any youth suspected to be from Attakwu. Kingsley was on his way back from Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) Enugu where he was doing his IT. He used to help me do some of the odd mason jobs I do. He was humble and ready to do every humiliating job to earn and pay his school fees."

Corroborating Okafor's claims, the traditional Prime Minister of the community, Chief Andrew Ude said the rampaging youths on the fateful day also shot one Jacob Aninwede and dealt machete cuts on one Madueke Ugwu. He confirmed that the commissioner of police and other police officers arrived their community three days later but no arrest has been made up to this moment.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer for Enugu Command, Mr. Mike Abbatam, said the police are not dragging foot on the matter but each time their men were there to effect arrests, nobody would volunteer

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From Chris Oji, Enugu

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Meranwhile, the parents of Kingsley have, through their lawyer, Mr. M. O. Uzor, petitioned the Enugu State Commissioner of Police to use his good offices to bring the culprits to book. The petition insisted that Jacob Aninwede and Madueke Ugwu, two of the victims of the attack, will give credible lead to the police.

The petition mentioned names of the members of the gang that attacked the community and asked for their immediate arrest.



• The late Kingsley ... tall dreams aborted