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Area command denies killing 60-year-old man

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The Police Area Commander in Aba, Abia State, Assistant Commissioner of Police Rabiu Dayi, has denied that his men tortured to death a 60-year-old man, Monday Nwakanma, who was arrested by the police for allegedly aiding and abetting kidnapping in Osisioma.

Dayi refuted a newspaper report [not The Nation], while speaking with reporters in his office in Aba, that the police, under his command, tortured the late Nwakanma to death. He said the man collapsed while attempting to go to the bathroom to relieve himself.

The police chief said the deceased was arrested by his men at his house in Umuochor, Uratta Amaise in Osisioma Local Government on November 11, last year and brought to the command for interrogation.

"When the man was brought to our office, the rescued kidnapped girl, Adaugo, identified him as the man she saw sitting down in front of his house and when she called out to him for help that he refused to help her, he said.

"It was only then that he decided to be allowed to go and ease himself. He was escorted to the place, but on reaching there, he collapsed and was aided by the police with the help of one of his sons to the

police clinic before being taken to the state University Teaching Hospital in Aba where he was confirmed dead".

Dayi said the police ordered autopsy, which showed that he died of a heart attack.

"You journalists can have the autopsy report, which said that there were no injuries on the body and that he died of a heart attack".

The Aba police chief said he believed the man's heart beat increased as he never expected to see the rescued kidnap victim, who challenged him in the police station.

"My worry is why their lawyer would go to the press over a matter that is pending in court".

He noted that Adaugo had also identified the wife of the deceased, Gold, as one of those who use to cook for the kidnappers and those they have kidnapped, while they (kidnapped victims) were kept in a house of one of the brothers of the late Nwakanma.

He said the lawyer to the late Nwakanma, Victor Nwaugo had called on his home and said, "please let us forget the family of the deceased, but just give me N50 million for me to forget about the matter. He made that demand in the presence of Inspector Kachi, but I told him since I do not have that amount of money, why not go and join the kidnappers to make such money".

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