

Family of slain graduate petitions Jonathan

The family of the late Chukwuma Ihezue, who allegedly died in police custody, has petitioned President Goodluck Jonathan seeking his order for an autopsy to be conducted on the deceased to enable them to take his corpse for burial.

“Chukwuma died in mysterious circumstances in detention six days after he was arrested by the men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Enugu State Police Command.

“The police had branded the graduate of Engineering a robbery suspect, an allegation his family had refuted.

“It was, however, gathered that few months after the police authorities completed their investigations, it was discovered that the deceased was indeed not a robber.

“The spokesman of the family, Mr. Chinedu Ihezue disclosed that the police, after thorough investigation, discovered that their son was not a criminal.”

“He added that consequently, the car, laptop and other personal effects of the deceased have been released to the family.”

“Ihezue, however, said although the police have asked them to go ahead and bury the corpse of their son, it would be difficult to do so as the Enugu State Police Command had allegedly turned down a request for autopsy.”

A letter addressed to President Jonathan, which was copied to the Senate President David Mark, Hon. Matthew Omegara, Representing Okigwe North Federal Constituency, House of Representatives, The Chairman, Police Service Commission, the Inspector-General of Police, the Commissioner of Police Enugu State Command, the Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Commission, Abuja, reads in part: “With sorrowful and painful heart, we the entire family of the late Mr. Sabastine Ihezue, hereby cry unto you for your urgent intervention as our last hope on the callous and extra-judicial killing of our son/brother, Chukwuma Ihezue, by some self-acclaimed, untouchable gods of Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigerian Police Force, Enugu State Command.”

The letter signed by Chinedu Ihezue on behalf of the family of the deceased, is praying President Jonathan to prevail on the police authorities to, among other things, “arrest, dismiss and prosecute the officers involved in the matter.,

“Conduct a genuine post-mortem examination on Chukwuma’s corpse and release his corpse to us for burial.”

In the letter, the family of the deceased also said: “Chukwuma Ihezue is a native of Umuoze Ezumoha in Isiala Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State. Born in 1983 (just 30 years old), he was the last born of the family. A 2013 graduate of Mechanical Engineering of the Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Enugu, he, out of determination, engaged in cab driving to earn his living and pay his school fees.

“He also continued the menial job even after graduation because of lack of job opportunities. The poor mother toiled without measure to feed and care for the family which was occasioned by the early death of the father. From birth till death, our son had no case of fighting, let alone criminal case anywhere in the world. This

attestation stands to be investigated even where he lived, No.8, Concrete Avenue, Railway Quarters, Enugu, Enugu State.”

“Chukwuma Ihezue was callously murdered in police custody six (6) days after being arrested. He was alleged to have “aided” an armed robber (still unknown and cannot be provided) to commit crime which is unfounded. Our heart is bleeding; our hope is in God Almighty through you. The future hope and light of the family has been so extinguished. We humbly cry unto you, sir.”

“Note sir, on 12/1/2014, Chukwuma went for his normal cab work and was arrested by Independence Layout, Enugu police men for picking a passenger whom the police falsely labelled a robber. He was kept under detention in their station under a DPO by name Zakari Yau. He was later transferred to Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) Office, by Zakari Yau, alongside with his handwritten statement. The police officer in charge of SARS Enugu State Command was CSP Uche. His 2IC was Felix Bolu.

“On 18/1/2014, Chukwuma was shot on the spinal cord and killed by SARS without a fair hearing in any court of law. His corpse was dumped in UNTH Ituku Ozala, Enugu mortuary on Saturday, 18/1/2014. Chukwuma was arrested on 12/1/2014 and hurriedly killed on 18/1/2014 to cover up a secret, which could have been unveiled if he was allowed to talk.”