
Police parade suspected killer of UUTH doctor, others

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The Akwa Ibom State Police Command yesterday paraded some suspected murderers .

Among them was Henry Silas, who allegedly killed the Head of Department of Pathology at the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital (UUTH), Dr. Ivy Umanah.

At a media briefing at the police headquarters in Uyo, the state capital, Police Commissioner Murtala Mani said Silas (28), a native of Ikot Akpanwa village in Ika Local Government Area, allegedly used a vehicle iron (car shaft) to hit Dr. Umanah on her head, causing her instant death.

The police chief said the late pathologist gave the suspect a tilling job to do in her apartment.

He said Dr. Festus Abasiubong introduced Silas to the UUTH doctor after completing a designing work at Dr. Abasiubong's home at Ikot Ntuen village on Abak Road in 2015.

Mani said: "Silas confessed to the crime – that he killed Dr. Umanah with an object, a car shaft, which he picked by the side of her vehicle, which was parked in the compound of the deceased's house.

"The suspect said he was not sent by anyone to kill the deceased, that the killing was as a result of the disagreement he had with her over the payment of N100,000 for the work he did in her house: tilling and Plaster of Paris (P.O.P) work.

"He also stated that Dr. Abasiubong did not send him for the killing, though it was Dr. Abasiubong who introduced him to the deceased to work for her."

The police chief said a team of officers from the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), led by Julian Igbudu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), arrested the suspect in Aba, Abia State.

Items belonging to the deceased, which the police allegedly recovered from Silas' home, include: two car keys, three First Bank and GT Bank ATM cards.

Mani said: "When the house and premises of Silas was searched, the plasma television of the deceased was recovered in his room at 124 Aka Road, Uyo. The cell phone of the deceased has not yet been recovered though he claimed that he lost it inside a tricycle he entered."

The police commissioner also said another suspect, Glory Bassey (28), killed her 75-year-old father, Bassey Udo, for allegedly being a wizard.

He said the suspect, who is from Itu Local Government Area, broke into her father's home and hit him to death.

Another suspect, Uwem Akpanebe (17), allegedly killed Mrs. Josephine George with a machete.

Mani said Akpanebe, who is from Essien Udim Local Government Area, is a nephew to the deceased.

The police chief said Akpanebe allegedly killed the woman because he felt Mrs Akpanebe wanted to use him for money ritual.

The suspects spoke separately with our correspondent, confessing to the killings.

Silas said: "I was pleading with the deceased to pay me. But she started complaining about the work, that she did not like the design. The deceased gave me a slap and banged the door on me.

"I got angry and I picked a rod kept outside the compound. I waited for her to come out. When she

came out and saw that I was holding a big rod, she became atraid and ran to the parlour.

“I chased her and, in the process, she fell down. I hit her hard on the head with the rod.”

Bassey said: “I had two husbands and five children and all died mysteriously. My brother went mad before he died and my mother had seven strange sicknesses before she died. My father had strange powers and had killed all the children before their birth.

“Five of my children died in my stomach at the point of their birth and were evacuated through surgical operations. I confronted my father about my predicament but he started flogging me while raining abuses on me. I then retaliated by whipping him back only to be told after a day that he had died.”

Akpanebe said: “I was arrested because I killed my mother’s sister. I was told that she wanted to use me for money ritual. I used a machete to kill her.”

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