

CRIME & OTHER STORIES

Yoruba community in Niger protests 'killing' of member



• The late Ismail

■ Kunle AKINRINADE ■

THE Yoruba community in Suleja, Niger State has protested the alleged killing three weeks ago of a member, Ismail, by an individual named Chukwudi during an altercation over property.

Chukwudi, a member of the Igbo community, was said to have stabbed Ismail to death with a knife.

Our correspondent learnt that the deceased and his assailant built their houses near each other in the Chasa Dumex area of Suleja. Sources claimed that they agreed to leave a space between their buildings as driveway.

When Chukwudi afterwards erected a structure on the driveway without the consent of the deceased, the late Ismail was said to have visited him in order to register his displeasure at the turn of events.

The visit, however, turned bloody when Chukwudi allegedly attacked Ismail and slashed his neck with a kitchen knife. Ismail collapsed and was rushed bloodied to a nearby hospital where he died a few minutes after.

It was learnt that the incident was reported to Area 'B' Police Division in Suleja.

Ismail's death, according to sources, fuels ethnic tension between members of Yoruba community and their Igbo counterparts.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the station was said to have fruitlessly tried to broker peace between the aggrieved Yoruba residents and Igbos in the community.

Speaking with *The Nation* last Friday, a member of the Yoruba community who asked not to be named for fear of retribution, said: "We are calling on concerned authorities to ensure justice over the dastard killing of Ismail by Chukwudi because he has boasted that he would further deal with Yoruba residents for supporting President Muhammadu Buhari in the last election.

"We are also appealing to the leader of Yoruba community, Alhaji Abdul-Azees Mustapha not to lose sleep over the matter because the lives of Yoruba residents are in danger."

The spokesman of Niger Police Command, Mr. Bala Elkana James, had yet to respond to enquiries by our correspondent at press time.