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Widow to IGP: order arrest of my husband's killer

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The widow of a slain sand dealer in Umuebulu, Etche Local Government of Rivers State, Mrs. Victoria Njoku, has appealed to the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Ibrahim Idris, for justice.

She lamented that her four children have stopped school since her husband was murdered on May 5.

Leaders of Umuebulu, in a petition to the IGP, signed by the monarch, Eze James Nwagwu; the oldest man in the community Enyiazu Okere; a leader, Chief Benjamin Nwafor, and 10 others, accused a member of the IGP Monitoring Team in Abuja, Victor Nwadike, of vowing not to return the case file to Port Harcourt.

They alleged that Nwadike attempted to pervert justice, having collected N20 million from the suspected murderer, Daniel Njoku, an engineer, which he denied.

Mrs. Njoku said: “I want justice. The killer of my husband should be arrested; the IGP should order that the case file be sent to Port Harcourt. The murderer always bribed his way through each time he was arrested.

“Why the special interest of Abuja in this case? Who is funding SP Victor Nwadike and his men to pay flights from Abuja to Rivers State for this murder case? Was it the IGP that funded and mobilised him? Why have members of the IGP monitoring team not bothered to hear from eyewitnesses? Why is Nwadike avoiding me and witnesses to the murder? Who is really paying for his (Nwadike’s) expenses in hotels and fares?

“What is the rationale behind the takeover of the case by the IGP monitoring team, of an already-concluded investigation in Rivers State, even when the matter occurred in Rivers State?”

Umuebulu leaders begged the IGP not to allow the case to be swept under the carpet, urging him to take action and perform his duty.

They said: “The only reason Nwadike has refused to return the case file to Rivers State is to impede investigation and frustrate eyewitnesses, who cannot afford the cost of travelling to Abuja.

“Nwadike has vowed not to hand over the case file, despite cries of the widow, the four children and community members that he (Nwadike) should withdraw from the case. His conduct has lent credence to the boast by the murderer that he has bought Nwadike.

“The leadership of Umuebulu has restrained aggrieved youths against taking laws into their hands, but we cannot guarantee their cooperation if justice is delayed or denied. The released murderer is attempting to eliminate eyewitnesses.”

But Nwadike said he never vowed to hold on to the case file, adding that he acted professionally while handling the matter, but he did not know how the suspect (Daniel) was freed. He insisted it happened before he took over the matter.

His words: “It was on the directive of the IGP that I was mandated to take over the case. Before I proceeded to SCIID, Port Harcourt, to take over, my team had taken over the sister case file from another monitoring unit team. I acted as directed.

“I did not know Daniel Njoku prior to September 15, when the case file was taken over from Port Harcourt. That was the first and only time I met him. It may also interest you to know that I never had his phone number or ever called him. My call log can attest to this. He is not my friend.

“I am not a bribe-taking policeman. Without sounding immodest, I am not the type of officer who sees white and turns it to black. By the grace of God, my life will never condescend to that level. My accusers should know that at the right time, they will be required to prove when, where and how I received bribe from Daniel Njoku. It will be unfortunate if they fail.

“Investigation is on. They have been invited. Yet, they have failed or refused to honour the invitation. Why are they not comfortable with the office of the IGP to look into and do justice to this case if they have nothing to hide? “

The suspected murderer, Daniel Njoku, in a telephone interview, described the petitioners (leaders of Umuebulu) as hoodlums and impostors, who lied against him after taking over his father’s land. He denied killing Mbuchi, who he said drowned in the river.

Njoku also denied bribing any policeman.

Umuebulu leaders, however, called on the IG to perform his constitutional duty and bring the culprit to book.

They pleaded with the IG to end the underhand activities of the monitoring team in trying to cover up the case.



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