

# Power Uti charged with wife's murder

Posted By: [Robert Egbe](#) On: October 24, 2017 In: [News Update](#), [Sports](#)

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The State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (SCIID) Panti-Yaba, Lagos, has charged a former Nigerian wrestler, Power Uti, with the murder of his wife, Toyin.

Power Uti, whose real name is John Eke Uti, was arraigned before Mrs. B. O. Folarin Williams of an Ebute-Meta Chief Magistrate's Court, Lagos.

He is standing trial on two counts of murder.

Uti, who reigned in the wrestling world in the 80s and early 90s, was accused of beating Toyin to death and abandoning her corpse in their 17, Oremeji Street, Ilupeju, residence.

According to the police, the incident occurred on October 10, 2017.

The charge reads: “That you John Eke Uti, on the 10th day of October, 2017, at about 10:25am, at 17, Oremeji Street, Ilupeju, Lagos, did unlawfully kill one Toyin Uti, aged 38, by beating her to death and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 222 and punishable under Section 223 Cap C17, Vol. 3 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State of Nigeria, 2015.

“That you John Eke Uti, at the same date, time and place, did disrespect the corpse of one Toyin Uti, aged 38, by abandoning the corpse in a room to decompose and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 165(a) Cap C17, Vol. 3 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State of Nigeria, 2015”.

However, Uti’s plea was not taken.

Prosecuting Sergeant Jimah Ishegele moved an application seeking the defendant’s remand in prison custody for 30 days, pending advice on the case from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

This was opposed by Uti's counsel, I. E. Mkoemekor, who urged the court to admit him to bail on "very liberal terms".

Mkoemekor, relying on Section 224 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Lagos State, 2015, urged the court to peruse the case file, where, according to him, it would be found that nothing linked his client with the deceased's death.

Upholding Mkoemekor's oral application, Chief Magistrate Williams examined the case file.

In a bench ruling, she declined the prosecution's application, citing Section 224(5) of the ACJL.

Chief Magistrate Williams said: "I have read the case file, and none of the witnesses listed said that the defendant killed his wife.

"Even, the Investigative Police Officer (IPO) could not establish that the defendant killed the deceased.

"I'm not going to grant the remand application, I will grant bail to the defendant, and send the case file to the DPP for advice.

"Consequently, I hereby admit bail to defendant in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties. The sureties must be gainfully employed in reputable companies."