

■ Precious **IGBONWELUNDU** and Olatunde **ODEBIYI** ■

FOR 69-year-old Musibau Abudu and his family, the phrase "police is your friend" is nothing but an irony. They have seen nothing but the bitter side of that arm of government, whose duty is the protection of lives, properties and the maintenance of law and order.

Abudu has for the past 15 months been without his 37-year-old son, Akeem Alakan Abudu, who was arrested by operatives of the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS) at Ikorodu, Lagos moved to the command headquarters in Ikeja where he allegedly died in controversial circumstance.

His plight was worsened by the fact that police authorities till date have neither told him what happened to his son nor handed over his remains for interment.

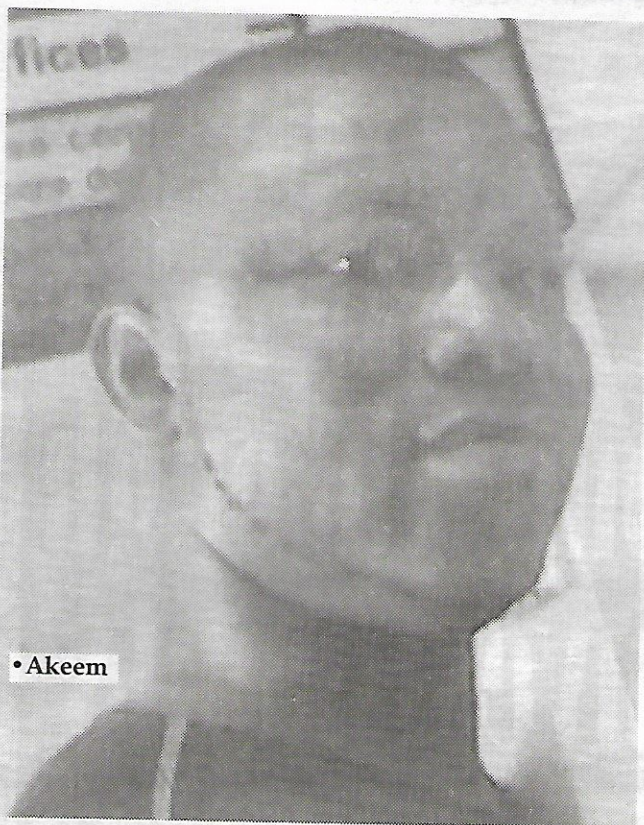
At his Imota-Ikorodu residence, Abudu, who told *The Nation* he had handed over the matter to God, said his family has not been the same since September 19, last year.

He said he wakes up each day confused and helpless, especially because he still cannot understand why the police would kill and then hide his son's body.

Abudu said: "This whole issue is still like a dream to me. My son lived with his wife and four children not too far from my house. That morning (September 19), he came to my house to see us and then he said he wanted to also see some of his friends, who were at a gas station.

"That was where some SARS men, who came in a van, saw them. That was where he was arrested. I went there to find out what happened and they told me that the SARS people came in a vehicle and Akeem, who knew one of them, went to greet him.

"After they had greeted, the people at the gas station said the



• Akeem

SARS people told Akeem to enter the vehicle, that someone inside the vehicle identified him as one of the leaders of cultists.

"That was the last time anyone saw him. We went to Imota police station to look for him; they told us that they took him to SARS Ikeja. I went to Ikeja with my son, Obama, but the police people initially denied that he was in their custody.

"They first told us that there was no one like that in their cell. Then, later they said they would not allow us to see him, that he was under investigation. I asked what he did but they did not tell me anything.

"But while there, some youths they also arrested at Imota, who were inside the cell, told us that the SARS people shot Akeem and that he was in the hospital. I asked the police but they denied it.

"So, I called Akeem's boss, Chief Kaka Benson, and he advised that I should get a lawyer. He said if they refused me from seeing my son, they cannot refuse a lawyer. We got a lawyer, Olufemi Oladunni, and he went to SARS and demanded to see Akeem.

"We wrote a petition to the Commis-

sioner of Police demanding to see Akeem but they did not show us my son. We kept going but no result. The lawyer started making more financial demands from me. He said we should sue the police to court and asked for a huge amount of money for the case. Since I did not have the money, I told him to forget about the court case.

"That is how it has been since then. The police till date have not said anything to me. But my son, Obama, later got to know through an unnamed policeman that Akeem was tortured to death."

Although the police were yet to inform the family the reason Akeem was arrested, the family believed that his arrest might not be unconnected with a land dispute between a traditional ruler and Chief Benson.

Although the police had told Obama that a locally made gun was found in his brother's possession, none of the family

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Akeem Abudu and gang were transferred to SARS office, Lagos State Police Command headquarters alongside his gang members for further investigation. He was informed of the impending transfer. However after the transfer was barely done, Akeem Abudu slumped. He was hospitalized at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) on August 20, 2016, at about 2:30pm before he passed on at about 11:45pm. He died of heart attack
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members was shown the weapon.

Obama said: "I was the closest to my brother and I was the one who knew

about the land issue. The thing is that Chief Benson and the Oba were dragging a vast land in Imota. Chief Kaka is into real estate. They went to court and he won the other side.

"My brother worked for him. When he was travelling, he put my brother in charge of the land. My brother usually went there every day to be sure there were no trespassers on the property.

"So, that Oba was not happy. He felt that my brother was taking sides with Chief Benson, a non-indigene. He was the one who arranged to kill my brother.

"One of the policemen who took part in it opened up to me and told me that they were paid to eliminate my brother. It was the policeman who sent me the pictures of my brother's body and told me that he died in their custody.

"Initially, he lied that my brother

• Akeem's