



# city&crime

f @TheNationNewspaper | t @TheNationNews | YouTube @TheNationNewspaper

*Is a City&Crime story breaking  
right before you?  
Call 08083205003*

## CP orders arrest of inspector for 'killing' widow

**A**KWA Ibom State Police Commissioner Imohimi Edgal has ordered the arrest of Mr. Bassey Peter Ikpe, an inspector attached to the command, for allegedly killing a widow, Mrs. Deborah Nkereuwem Nkpenie.

The deceased, said to be hypertensive, was allegedly manhandled by Inspector Ikpe on the premises of the command, which led to her death.

When the news of the murder of the widow was received by the residents last Thursday, the police initially refused to acknowledge it.

However, in a statement signed by the command's spokesman, Odiko MacDon, the CP said he had ordered that Inspector Ikpe be arrested.

The police statement reads: "The attention of the Akwa Ibom State Police Command has been drawn to a publication in some dailies and online media that a policeman attached to the Akwa Ibom State Police Command, Inspector Bassey Ikpe, reportedly beat Mrs. Deborah

From Bassey Anthony, Uyo

Nkereuwem Nkpenie to death on January 16.

"To authenticate this serious allegation, the Commissioner of Police, Akwa Ibom State Police Command, CP Imohimi Edgal, has ordered the immediate arrest of the inspector. The commissioner has instructed the Deputy Commissioner, State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), to carry out a thorough investigation into the matter, while reiterating the command's commitment to policing with great respect for human rights."

An eyewitness said that the incident occurred on January 16, following the invitation of the deceased by the policeman, who was an IPO in an ongoing case.

Such invitation, according to a human rights lawyer, Clifford Thomas, who had picked interest in the case and had interacted with the DPC, was against the wise counsel of the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation

and Intelligence Department of the state command, considering the hypertensive state of the deceased at the time.

Recounting the deceased's last moments with the policeman on the premises of the police headquarters, a Keke rider, Ukpono Sunday Umoren, who brought the woman to the station, said: "The policeman approached my Keke, which carried the woman and shouted at her that she was lying about her illness. He made efforts to drag her out. In anger, he knocked her head several times by the side rail of the keke. The woman screamed that she was not well.

"She began to suffocate and found it difficult to breathe. The policeman insisted that she was lying. He even told her that if she wanted to die, she should die.

"As she was screaming while the policeman kept trying to drag her out of the keke, her voice grew faint. We were begging the policeman to refrain from his hostile act towards the woman. He even prevented us from

taking her to hospital. It was after she breathed her last that he ordered that she be taken to hospital."

Further checks showed that the Deputy Commissioner of Police at the command, Mrs. S. U. Horsefall, a lawyer, had advised against unprofessional conduct by Inspector Ikpe, including not bringing the parties before the DC for interview before arraignment.

Another eyewitness, Mfonobong Ito Peter, sister to the deceased, also recounted that the policeman, who is the Investigation Police Officer (IPO) in an ongoing matter, had entered the bedroom of the deceased to forcefully dress her up, among other things.

She said the IPO went wild with the allegation that the deceased was lying about her state of health to escape being arraigned.

"My late sister was beaten to death by Inspector Ikpe. He had threatened her repeatedly ever since this matter came up. My sister had waist pains arising from the dislocation she had



•CP Edgal

while caring for the late husband. This made it difficult for her to move about freely.

"She had become almost bedridden because of the difficulty in movement. She was highly hypertensive due to the health complications that led to the husband's death. But this policeman refused to take even the advice of the Deputy Commissioner of Police. I don't know what interest he had in the matter.

"He had forced her to come to the police station, so that they could appear in court on a fictitious criminal charge, against the advice of the Deputy Commissioner of Police the previous day. He beat my sister to death. Let justice be done."

**Man charged with attempt to export Indian hemp**