

# Why we beheaded businessman, dismembered his body—Suspected kidnapper

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the kidnappers, but by the time she could get across to them, they had killed him and packed his dismembered body in a sack. But when his killers were about to dispose his corpse some Fulani men who were returning from the mosque were said to have seen them pushing something in a truck. The Fulani men asked them what they were carrying but before they could raise the alarm, the suspects ran away.

The Fulani men were said to have reported the matter to the police, following which the Force Intelligence Response Team (IRT) waded into the matter and arrested one Bello Mohammed, a native of Agveregu Tasha in Lafia Local Government Area, Nasarawa State, on March 11.

Mohammed has since confessed to the crime, saying he was part of a notorious kidnapping and cattle rustling gang and identifying other members of the gang as Maikano, Dogo, Hassan and Jubril.

He told the police that it was an Igbo man in Lafia that brought the idea that they should kidnap the late Nwachukwu, an Igbo trader who until his death resided at Tudun Kauri, Makurdi Road Lafia, on September 30, 2019. He said the gang decided to kill him because the family was not willing to pay ransom on time, after which they dumped his body in a bush at Bukan Koto along Makurdi Maraba-Ankunya Road, Lafia.

Speaking amid tears, Nwachukwu's widow said: "We are blessed with six children. My husband owns a pure water factory and I normally joined him to run the business.

"I was at home on Friday, 30th of November, 2019 when some kidnappers stormed our house and abducted my husband.

"Later in the night, I received a call that I should give N40 million if I wanted to see my husband alive.

"I pleaded with them to have mercy as it was a Friday and banks had closed. "They asked me how much I had and I told them N40,000. They asked me to bring the money and I did that night.

"We were waiting to hear from my husband when I received a call from them that I should not bother as my husband was dead.

"I was told that the person that arranged his kidnap is from the East but I was not suspecting anyone at all.

"God will punish the person behind my husband's kidnap and death."

In his confession, Mohammed, 37, said: "I am from Nasarawa State. I have two wives and eight children and I am a cattle farmer. "Things are hard for me as a farmer with eight children. It was my brother-in-law, Dogo, who encouraged me to join them. He was the one that took me for the first job. He heard that things were hard for us and decided to show me the way.

"On the kidnapping of the Igbo man, it was another Igbo man that brought the job. He told us that the man owned a pure water business and was very stingy. He assured us that the man would pay at least N10 million because he was so rich.

"He gave us all the details about his movement and that the best place to pick him was his house. We went with three motor bikes at about 8.30 pm and circled around his compound.

"Meanwhile one of us waited for him at the factory area and followed him home. He was the one who alerted us when they were on the way to the house.

"As soon as he drove into his compound around 9 pm, we followed him and overpowered him. We searched his house for valuables and dragged him along.

"We carried him on our bike and threatened to kill him if he dared raise the alarm.

"When we got to a spot, we stopped and trekked for hours into Bukan Koto forest in Lafia.

Inside the forest, there are many Fulani farmers living with their wives and children. There, Dogo has a small hut where we used to keep our victims.

"We called his (Nwachukwu's) wife to bring a ransom of N5 million and she said it was weekend.

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• The suspect

A businessman and owner of a sachet water factory abducted from his home in Lafia, Nasarawa State has been killed by his abductors. Mr. Osondu Nwachukwu was said to have been stabbed to death by his abductors following the inability of his wife to raise the N5 million demanded as ransom.

A source who spoke with our correspondent, however, said disclosed that the wife was able to borrowed the some demanded by