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Lamentation of a widow: Who killed my husband?

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faith udolor (widow)

The question that agitates the mind of Friday Udolor's widow, Faith, is who killed her husband. Her failure to get a satisfactory answer from the Delta State Police Command led her to seek the intervention of the Inspector General of Police. EBENEZER ADUROKIYA reports.

Bad as it is to have her husband murdered, it is not as bad as not knowing those behind the murder

nor having a feeling that those whose duty it is to unravel the mystery behind the killing are seemingly working assiduously to ensure that the truth about the death is never known. However, convinced that justice could only be served when the truth about her husband's death as well as the perpetrators is unveiled, Mrs Faith Udolor, through the Forum for Justice and Human Rights Defence (FJHD), has petitioned the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar, over the murder of her husband, Mr Friday Udolor and the alleged subsequent clandestine moves to sweep the case under the carpet.

The human rights group, on behalf of the deceased's wife, Faith, is asking for a comprehensive investigation into the incident that culminated in the murder of Mr Udolor with a view to bringing the culprits to book.

Udolor, father of three, namely; Paul, Peter and Ann, was before his death, an employee of the Nigerian Gas Company (NGC), Epkan, Effurun, Delta State, as a kitchen staff between 2002 and 2009.

The deceased later gained another job appointment with Alert and Protection Security Company Ltd as a security staff and was posted by the security outfit to the NGC as a security staff.

The widow of the deceased narrated that on April 10, 2013, her husband went to work and closed in

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the evening, but on getting home, he received a telephone call from his supervisor, asking him to return to the office. He informed his wife before leaving home.

The widow disclosed that she waited for her husband to return from work until she slept off only to be woken up in the early hours of the following day by a relative and told that her husband had been shot dead by a soldier deployed from 3 Battalion, Nigerian Army to guard the premises of NGC.

It was gathered that while relations of the deceased, said not to have any criminal record, made frantic efforts to unravel the mystery behind the death of the father-of-three, they were informed at the premises of the NGC in Ekpan that a soldier deployed to guard the premises of the gas company shot the deceased dead.

According to the petition, they were also informed that the corpse of the deceased had been carried to the Nigeria Police Station, Ekpan, by staffers of the NGC, while the Nigerian Army thereafter took the corpse of the deceased to the morgue of the General Hospital, Ekpan.

Curiously, Udakor's widow disclosed that at the death of her husband, his mobile phone could not be recovered, but on April 29, at about 3:27p.m, an anonymous caller used the deceased's GSM number, 08060181750, to call her and when she picked same, the caller was said to be saying "hello, hello," pretending to be disturbed by network problem before the caller eventually switched off and never called again.

Mrs. Udakor was said to have reported the aforementioned incident at the Nigeria Police Station, Ekpan, but each time she went to the police station to follow up the case, she was always asked to go back to either the Nigeria Gas Company or the Alert and Protection Security Company Ltd for briefing.

Thereafter, till date, no investigation on the murder is said to have been carried out.

Concerned that attempts are being made to shove the case under the carpet, Mrs. Udakor went to brief a lawyer, A.I. Odigwe, who on May 16, 2013, wrote a petition to the office of the Commissioner of Police, Delta Police Command, Ikehukwu Aduba. However, despite the said petition, no response has been got, neither has proper investigation been carried out on the murder case till date.

When contacted, Area Commander of the Warri Area Command, Nigeria Police, ACP Hussein Rabi, said he was not aware of the case as he was yet to attain the rank of area commander as of the time of the incident.

Rabi, however, noted that the decision by the wife and children of the deceased to petition the Inspector General of Police through the FJHD was a welcome development.

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