

# Man Accuses DPP of Using CJ's Name To Free His Father's Killer From Prison

By Styvn Obodoekwe

A Port Harcourt based accountant, Mr Chukwunonye Eke has cried out over what he described as a fraudulent use of the name and offices of the chief judge of the state to smuggle a prison inmate being held for murder out of prison custody.

Chukwunonye who hails from Ndashi, Umuiereri Umuochan Etche in Etche LGA of Rivers State, lamented to *National Point* that the plot to smuggle the murder suspect, Nkemjika Godfrey, out of the Port Harcourt Prisons, after about eight months of incarceration was perfected on May 28, 2012 when the state director of public prosecution, DPP, allegedly deceived an Okehi High Court handling the matter, to strike out the matter, thereby freeing the murder suspect who had earlier confessed to the crime of the murder of Chukwunonye's father, Mr Josiah Eke.

According to the information available to this publication, the DPP had on May 28, when the matter came up in the court, told the court to strike it out, saying that it has been overtaken by event as the chief judge had granted him freedom during his recent jail delivery exercise at the Port Harcourt Prisons.

Based on the information by the DPP, the court struck out the case, ordering the release of the murder suspect from custody. Chukwunonye said he was convinced the CJ did not free the murder suspect during his jail delivery exercise between Monday, May 21 and Tuesday, May 22, as the inmate had merely been in prison custody for about eight months and his case was billed to come up in court on May 28, few days after the CJ's visit to the prisons where he granted about 415 inmates on Awaiting Trial list freedom. Chukwunonye told this publication that since the killer of his father was arrested, the DPP had been more concerned

about freeing him from custody, rather than carrying out his duty of prosecuting him. "After remanding him in prison, we tried several times to get the DPP to issue advice and commence prosecution to no avail. Even when they went to court to seek bail, the DPP refused to file counter affidavit in court to challenge the bail application," he told this publication, adding that he was later guided by the court to file a personal affidavit opposing the bail application.

In a petition to the CJ, routed through the Rivers State branch of the Civil Liberties Organization, CLO, Chukwunonye stated that, "the DPP masterminded and ordered the release of the said murderer, Nkemjika Godfrey, in order to accomplish their mission on plan with prison warden, saying that it was overtaken by event during the release of inmates by the chief judge, which was totally false and a calculated plan towards frustrating the case".

"They have succeeded to release Nkemjika who shot my father dead without formally charging it to court, while my father's corpse is still lying in the mortuary", he stated.

Information available indicate that Chukwunonye's father, Josiah Eke, was shot dead at close range in front of his house in the village, Umuiereri, Ndashi Etche before his family members at about 8am on August 31, 2011. When Nkemjika was later arrested by the Police in connection with the murder, he did not only confess to the crime, but revealed that he was sponsored by one Mr Nwanyanwu of Works Department, Rivers State Polytechnic, sources stated.

However, in spite of the alleged involvement of Nwanyanwu in the murder and his threats to kill the deceased before the end of the year, the police refused to arrest him.



Hon Justice Ichie N. Ndu

From available information, the late Eke Josiah may have been killed for reporting the destruction of his crops by Mr Monday Nwanyanwu in the latter's attempt to convert Eke's farmland into an access road to his

newly built house near the deceased's house in the village.

Although Monday and other persons, including Mr Emmanuel Anele, director of Finance in one of the state ministries, Loveday Nwanyanwu of RSUST, Port Harcourt, and Mr Silvernus Amadi, former secretary of Etche Local Government Council, were invited by the policemen at Okehi Division over the destruction of the crops and plantain plantation, they did not honour the invitation. No effort was also made by the police to arrest them after failing to honour the invitation.

Encouraged by the air of impunity around him, as a result of the refusal of the Police to arrest him, Monday was said to have vowed to the late Eke that he would kill him before the end of the year 2011, a vow the family members believe, he carried out on August 31, 2011, using

Nkemjika to execute.

The Rivers State branch of the CLO, in a petition to the CJ on the matter, urged him to order investigation into the use of his name and office to smuggle a murder suspect out of prison custody when the matter was progressively pending before the court; order the immediate arrest and prosecution of the sponsors of the murder and ensure that the released suspect is re-arrested as his presence in the society portends danger to law abiding citizens.

"We have confidence in your stance on issues of justice and sincerely hope that you will use your good offices to ensure that justice is done and is seen to be done. A situation where a clear case of broad day light murder is left unprosecuted is an encouragement to impunity and it spells doom to the judicial system. We trust that you will not allow this to happen", the CLO concluded.

## The CLO Petition To The CJ:

The Chief Judge  
Rivers State High Court Complex  
Port Harcourt

Sir,

### The fraudulent Use of the name of CJ to free murder suspect

It is with utmost humility that we write this petition on behalf of the family of Mr Josiah Eke of Umuiereri, Umuocham, Ndashi, Etche in Etche LGA, who was gruesomely murdered on August 31, 2011 by hired killers. The late Josiah Eke was shot on the head at close range in front of his house and in the presence of his wife and children at about 8 am on that fateful day. One of the killers, Godfrey Nkemjika, said to be a notorious criminal, was later arrested, arraigned before a Port Harcourt Magistrate Court on a one count charge of murder and was consequently remanded in prison custody on October 13, 2011, charge sheet attached.

This petition has become necessary as a result of allegations of desperate and clandestine moves by the sponsors of the killers, Mr Monday Nwanyanwu, in conjunction with the DPP, Mr Otobio, and others, including one Emmanuel Anele, Ministry of Finance Port Harcourt, Loveday Nwanyanwu of Accountancy Department, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt and Mr Silvernus Amadi, former secretary of Etche LGA, to free the suspect and jettison prosecution.

The DPP, whose duty it is to prosecute criminal elements in the state, was said to have shown no sign of preparedness to prosecute the suspected killers of the man, even when Nkemjika was said to have confessed to the crime.

Information available to this organization indicate:

\* That the murder of Josiah Eke was instigated and sponsored by one Mr Monday Nwanyanwu of the Works Department, Rivers State Polytechnic, Bori in order to take over his piece of cultivated farmland and turn it into an access road to his building near the late Mr Eke's house at Umuocham Ndashi, in Etche LGA;

\* That Mr Nwanyanwu and his cohorts have been threatening to kill the first son of the deceased, Chukwunonye Eke and his siblings for daring to report the killers of their father to the Police. They have been chased into exile by the said Nwanyanwu and his cohorts;

\* That the DPP, rather than issuing Advice to commence trials, has been aiding the sponsors of the callous murder to pervert justice;

\* That on May, 28, 2012 when the matter came up at the Okehi High Court, few days after the CJ concluded his jail delivery exercise, the DPP told the Court that the matter has been overtaken by event as the accused, who has been in custody barely 8 months, has been released by the Chief Judge, CJ during the jail delivery, a claim he knew was false and deceptive, aimed at deceiving the court.

\* That based on the deceptive information, the court struck out the matter and granted the murder suspect free;

\* That it is believed that some prison officials aided the smuggling out of the murder suspect from custody:

From the foregoing, we most humbly urge you to:

\* Order the investigation into the use of the CJ's name and office to smuggle a murder suspect out of prison custody when the matter was progressively pending before the Court;

\* Order the immediate arrest and prosecution of the sponsors of the murder;

\* Ensure that the released suspect is re-arrested as his presence in the society portends danger to law abiding citizens;

\* Ensure that he and his partners in the crime are diligently prosecuted and brought to book for the serious crime of murder;

\* Ensure that the DPP and the Prison officials who aided the fraudulent release of the accused are called to order as their actions amount to a dent on the judicial system;

We have confidence in your stance on issues of justice and sincerely hope that you will use your good offices to ensure that justice is done and is seen to be done. A situation where a clear case of broad day light murder is left unprosecuted is an encouragement to impunity and it spells doom to the judicial system. We trust that you will not allow this to happen.

Yours Faithfully

Obodoekwe Styvn  
Chairman  
08033390311

Cc: National Human Rights Commission, port harcourt  
Comptroller of Prisons, Port Harcourt Prisons.

## Groups To Take RSG to court Over Newly Signed Gobs Pension Act

The newly signed act, allocating stupendous benefits to ex-governors of Rivers State, has attracted the anger of civil society organizations in Rivers State. Addressing a press conference in Port Harcourt on Monday, June 4, Ken Henshaw who co ordinates the Niger Delta Citizens and Budget Platform, a transparency and accountability coalition, told the government to repeal the act immediately or face lawful actions. Ken Henshaw lamented that it is worrisome that the state legislators could descend to such a lowly level of creating a law that only serves the interest of just two persons and their families.

"This is an Assembly which, since inception, is yet to produce any bill that will tackle societal needs or improve the living conditions of the poor masses by effectively addressing poverty, which has become endemic in the society and which is responsible for most of the societal ills plaguing the polity today", the Platform stated.

Describing the act as undemocratic, anti-people, unpopular and unjustifiable, the coalition lamented that despite the public outcries against the bill, the governor went ahead to sign it into law an act pointing out, that "the speed with which the bill was passed and signed into law makes it very suspicious and questionable".

The platform maintained that the act is unsustainable and will put further pressures on the

already weak economy of the state.

"This is coming at a time when the state government has at various forums, admitted that its financial situation was precarious and for which reason it approached some financial institutions for loans to fund its yearly budgets and for which many infrastructural projects have been left either half done or abandoned". The civil society activists considered the bill as a way of further bloating the over-bloated fortunes of the ex-governors and their deputies, who, by all standards, are known to be stupendously rich, with some of them, even richer than the state itself, with their illegally amassed wealth.

Rather than spending more Rivers State funds on the leaders, the coalition called on the EFCC to immediately commence the prosecution of the corrupt former governors, as well as all those who participated in their administration for the mismanagement of the resources of the state.

In addition to the Niger Delta Budget Citizens Budget Platforms, two separate human rights groups have disclosed that they are warning up to drag the government to court over the act. The groups include Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Agape Birth Right. They in separate statements, charged Rivers State people to wake up and resist the offensive act, which is a burden to the state.