Landlord dies over squabble on pure water

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A Thirty-four year-old woman, Biodun Amosun, who allegedly hit and killed her landlord with a plank bearing a nail has been arrested by the homicide section of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Ogun State Command Headquarters, Eleweran, Abeokuta.

She is telling the detectives how a rift over a sachet of water, popularly called "pure water", made her smash the plant on the hand of her landlord, Jimoh Adeyemo.

The satchet water, according to Amosun, was drunk by her visiting sister, who unknowingly threw the remnant to the doorstep of the landlord.

This generated a hot argument between Amosun and the landlord's wife.

The Ikereku, Abeokuta, Ogun state-born suspect, who admitted committing the crime unintentionally, stated that her landlord's intervention did not help matters. The man stood in support of his wife, and in anger, the tenant went out in search of an object to beat him with. She found the plank and smashed it on Adeyemo his left arm.

According to sources around the neighbourhood, the nail wound resulting from the attack began to show complications suspected to be tetanus infection, thereby leading to the death of the landlord eight days after.

She said: "The landlord was the cause of the problem. I was engaged in a fracas with his wife and when I had an upper hand on the wife, she quickly called her husband to come to her rescue. And when the husband (landlord) came, instead for him to intervene and settle the matter, he held me by the throat and asked his wife to be beating me."

The suspect continued: "The landlord's wife also injured me on my left arm. It was when I wriggled out of them that I rushed outside and picked a plank I found on the

ground and hit it on the landlord's left limb. "I did not know that the plank was laced with nails and the thing landed on his arm and it bled. The wife also, fled when she noticed I had hit her husband."

While blaming the deceased, she said he failed to go to hospital for proper treatment of the wounds, adding: "The landlord reported at the police station and I was arrested to write statement.

"It was at the station that we were asked to go to the hospital for treatment over the various injuries we inflicted on one another.

"But I think five days thereafter, the landlord did not go for the treatment and the bruise on him had already been infected with tetanus.

"Subsequently, the police invited me to the station and I was asked to foot the hospital bill of the landlord. The landlord claimed he needed a sum of N6, 000 for the treatment but I could not raise the amount. My younger brother, Muyideen, raised the amount and we gave him. But from our findings, we learnt that the landlord did not visit any hospital for treatment. Instead, he was taken away by his relatives to an undisclosed location."

The woman said that the fracas would not have degenerated to that level but for continuous victimization by her landlord and the wife even after her husband's death, claiming: "I had long endured the excesses and as such, could no longer tolerate the landlord and his wife, who had always made life unbearable for me.

"We had all the whil, been quarrelling. I rented a room from the landlord where I and my two children are staying. I had lost my husband and I have refused to re-marry. On that fateful Friday, October 7, 2011, my younger sister, Kafayat, came to visit me. She took a sachet of water and unconsciously dropped it on the doorstep of the landlord's room.

"The landlord's wife, Adijat came and knocked on my door. She asked me to tell my visitor to come and pick the pure water sachet she dropped on their doorstep.

"Kafayat wanted to get up and pick the sachet but I prevented her because the issue was trivial.

I had a rethink over my decision and I subsequently asked my son to go and pick the sachet. But instead, the landlord's wife insisted my visitor, who is my younger sister should pick the sachet, not my son and that was what triggered the fracas.

"We fought and when she sensed she could not handle me, she quickly raised an alarm and called her husband to come to her rescue. And that was how the landlord

joined inthe fray."

"It was eight days thereafter he gave up the ghost, according to information we gathered. Before I realized what was amiss, about two policemen had come for me. They took me to their station and from there, I was taken down here (SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta)."

Nicholas Nkemdeme, Ogun State Police Commissioner, confirmed the incident, saying the matter was still under investigation.

"Yes we will charge the woman to court after we must have concluded our investigation."

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