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Landlord beats tenant to death over toilet

By Fidelis Soriwei, Benin

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The residents of Isirukhe Street, Benin, were thrown into panic on Monday evening, when the landlord of one of the houses in the streets allegedly beat his tenant to death following a disagreement over the use of a toilet facility.

It was learnt that the landlord, who inherited the property from his late father alongside other siblings, had descended on the tenant and inflicted some facial injuries on him for failing to flush the toilet after usage.

Our correspondent gathered that the police were already on the trail of the suspect who, works with a transport company.

A source who spoke to our correspondent at the deserted street situated off Cook Road, Benin, Edo State, said that the deceased whose age was put at about 70 years, could not defend himself during the attack because he was drunk aside from the weakness that came with aging.

The old man was said to have bled to death through the nose and was abandoned in the toilet until his relatives called the police.

When our correspondent visited No. 11, Isirukhe Street on Tuesday, all the residents had fled the house for fear of being arrested by the police. There were fears in the neighbourhood as suspicious residents of the adjoining streets peeped from their windows and refused to make any comment on the issue.

Sources said that the men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the state Police Command, raided the area and arrested several young men in the neighbourhood in connection with the incident on Monday.

Several attempts made to speak with the Police Public Relations Officer in charge of the State Police Command, Mr. Peter Ogbi, were not successful as he did not pick the repeated calls placed to his mobile telephone on Tuesday.

Also, Ogboi was not available to comment on the issue when our correspondent visited his office at the headquarters of the state police command.

It was gathered that Ogboi was engrossed in the ongoing police recruitment exercise in the state and was not available to make any comment.

Further efforts made to speak with the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Chris Dega, were not successful as the calls placed to his mobile telephone line indicated that it was switched off.

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