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Police trail killers of drugstore owner in Minna

By Mike Odiegwu, Minna

Saturday, 4 Dec 2010

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Indications emerged on Thursday that the police in Niger State were trailing two men suspected to have murdered a 39-year-old drugstore owner, Mr. Ikotu Alfa, in Makera, Minna, Niger State.

In an interview with SATURDAY PUNCH, the spokesman for the police in the state, Mr. Richard Oguche, who described the killing of Alfa as unfortunate, said the police were making progress in their investigation.

A gang of irate youths escaping with a cough syrup allegedly stolen from the drug store had stabbed Alfa to death, throwing members of his family into mourning.

SATURDAY PUNCH learnt that Alfa was attacked with a dagger by the fleeing youths, who took a cough syrup for use as a stimulant, but chose not to pay him.

It was gathered that the youngsters made their way into the shop of Alfa pretending to be customers.

However, after Alfa had handed over the product to them, the youths took to their heels, an act SATURDAY PUNCH learnt, made him to run after them.

It was learnt that one of the youths had drawn his dagger and stabbed the victim on his thigh and chest.

The elder brother of the deceased, Mr. Yaro Alfa, had told SATURDAY PUNCH that his younger brother died on Monday night while pursuing the miscreants.

He lamented that the youths were fond of abusing the cough syrup in order to "get high" on its codeine content.

He, however, claimed that the youths forcefully took the drug when Alfa, knowing their intention, refused to sell it.

He said that his brother was confirmed dead at a hospital close to the area. But Oguche named the ringleader of the group as Mr. Hudu Abdulkarim.

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