

# Dad's death shattered my heart — Son of UNIBEN lecturer killed by robbers

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Nosa is the eldest son of a lecturer at the University of Benin, Edo State, Dr. Godwin Omofonmwan, who was recently killed by armed robbers. He shares the grief of the family with ALEXANDER OKERE

*Tell us about yourself.*

I am 22 years old. I am a 400-Level student at the UNIBEN.

***What happened the day your father died?***

On January 23, at about 9pm, my father came back from work. He had his dinner and relaxed for some time. He later received a call and told me that he was going to see one of his neighbours. Few hours later, he returned. I noticed that he opened the gate, locked it and entered the house. Immediately he entered, I came out from my room, greeted him and went back into my room.

Later, I checked my phone at about 11pm, looked through my window and I saw somebody with a black cap. The cap has an inscription. As I tried to look further, I noticed that they were more than one. One of them (robbers) pointed his gun at me and I closed the window. I came out of my room and raised the alarm that some persons, who looked like thieves, were outside. My mother, who was lying down, stood up and asked who was outside but none of them responded. As she opened the curtain and asked again, they shot her through the window. She was hit in her right shoulder and she started screaming.

***Where was your father at that point?***

My father stood up and went inside. After shooting, the robbers entered the house. They were already in the balcony when they shot her and they damaged the burglary proof. After the first shot, I went into the room. Suddenly, I heard multiple gunshots and they ordered us to come out or they would shoot us. When I came out, they started asking me where the money was.

I told them that I just returned from school and did not know the money they were talking about. But they insisted, saying that they knew that there was money in the house. One of them told my father that he thought he was smart and that they came prepared.

They took me inside and collected my father's laptop. They later dropped the laptop and collected all our phones. They also told me to go inside and lie down. They started ransacking the house and later left. I realised they had gone when I could no longer hear footsteps. I went out to check what was happening and I saw my father bleeding on the floor. Immediately, I looked for the key to the gate, came out and started shouting. The neighbours thought that the robbers were still around, so it took time for me to tell them to come and help us. One of the neighbours brought his car and we moved my parents to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital. He later died.