

NEWS

SARS killed my son, extorted N1m from me, man tells panel

Published November 27, 2020



File image

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

A petitioner at the Rivers State panel into police brutality and human rights abuse, Chief Daodu Yellow, on Thursday, said men of the

Yellow told the nine-member panel in Port Harcourt that his son, who was a final year student in the Faculty of Humanities, University of Port Harcourt, was arrested on March 13, 2019, killed and his body deposited in a mortuary without the knowledge of his family.

The petitioner, who was not present at the sitting on the grounds of age and ill health, was represented by his daughter, Mrs Hannah Michael-West.

She explained that on the day, Solomon left his hostel to attend lectures, but never returned.

Michael-West said the family's search for Solomon began on March 15 and on March 17, 2019, they went to the SARS office at Rukpokwu, but were told that the 27-year old was not in their custody.

She said, "After making complaint of a missing person at the Swift Operation Squad office in Port Harcourt, the police told us that we would be financially responsible for the investigation.

"We were asked to pay N50,000 for each of the 12 telephone lines they wanted to trace as part of their investigation."

She stated that six weeks after Solomon went missing, the family got information that his lifeless body was deposited in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital morgue by a policeman, Samuel Sunday, who paid N10,000.

The petitioner's daughter revealed that the family paid N300,000 for an autopsy, which showed that "my brother died of brain swelling."

She alleged that before the discovery, the police had cultivated the habit of extorting money from the family in the name of investigation.

"Apart from the N50,000 they collected for each of the 12 phone numbers they claimed they were going to trace, we were paying between N20,000 and N50,000 any time they called us," she added.

She stated that following a petition to the Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, the family was invited to Abuja and told to pay for flight tickets and accommodation for four officers to come and investigate the matter in Port Harcourt, a request the family rejected outright.

She demanded N1bn compensation for the family, adding, "Those who killed my brother should be brought to justice. They must be made to pay for their crime against my family."

Copyright PUNCH.

All rights reserved. This material, and other digital content on this website, may not be reproduced, published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed in whole or in part without prior express written permission from PUNCH.

Contact: theeditor@punchng.com

DOWNLOAD THE PUNCH NEWS APP NOW ON



Receive Alerts on: Whatsapp: +2349090060943, Twitter: @MobilePunch, BBM:C003D3DC0

Share your story with

us: SMS: +2349090060943, Whatsapp:+2349090060943, Email: punchonline@punchng.com



Recommended Stories



Tinubu denied me Oniru stool to protect hi...