

NBAWF condemns alleged killing of pregnant lawyer by husband

2 Oluwatosin Omojuyigbe

THE Nigerian Bar Association Women Forum has condemned the alleged killing of a lawyer, Adaeze Ikpeama, by her husband, Anthony.

It was gathered that the six-month pregnant Adaeze was allegedly beaten by her husband at their residence in Lagos on Saturday, which made her to become unconscious.

Our correspondent learnt that

operations, particularly in traffic investigation.

old Abubakar Musa; Yussut Usman, 30.

Adaeze was rushed to a hospital, where she was placed on oxygen.

The deceased's colleague, Chukwudi Iwuchukwu, who chronicled the incident on his Facebook page, alleged that Anthony went to the hospital to remove the oxygen mask, which led to Adaeze suffering cardiac arrest and her eventual death.

Iwuchukwu noted that the couple had been at loggerheads since they got married in 2014, adding that the

COVID-19 lockdown increased the domestic violence that the deceased faced daily.

He said, "When Adaeze Destiny Ikpeama got married to Anthony Elvis Ikpeama in 2014, little did she know that the institution she looked forward to enjoying would cut her life journey short.

"Immediately the marriage was sealed, the man Adaeze got married to immediately turn into a beast by turning the Madonna University trained lawyer into a punching bag. Even when relatives from both sides intervened several times by pleading with Anthony to stop beating his wife, if not for anything, she was the mother of his kids and his partner, the man was obtuse as he continued to beat the poor girl any time he was not in a good mood.

"COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown of staying at home made the domestic violence worse as it now became a daily ritual. Two days ago, another round of beating started and



• Anthony and Adaeze

this time round, it was very intense, which eventually ended up with him taking her life.

"His focus was the tummy as he was punching her 6 months pregnant tummy with righteous anger and all the energy he could muster. He did not stop till she gave up and went into a coma. When Adaeze went into a coma and was rushed to the hospital by her good neighbours who came to her aid, Anthony followed them to the hospital and immediately

she was admitted and oxygen was placed on her to resuscitate her, the husband went to her bedside and then removed the oxygen mask and that was how Adaeze suffered cardiac arrest and died."

Iwuchukwu, who added that Anthony was arrested on Monday, said he was granted bail by the police on the grounds that the couple's children were too young to be left alone.

However, Iwuchukwu noted that Anthony was later re-arrested on Monday by policemen from the Zone 2 Police Command after public outcry about his release.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, said the suspect was not released, adding that the case involved murder.

He said, "The man was not released; it is a murder case and it is not subjected to bail. The police do not have the power to release him on bail, not in that circumstance. As of yesterday (Monday), he was at the Ajah Police Station, and today (Tuesday), he was transferred to the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department, Panti."

of three women

kidnapped at Ibuso Gbooro, close to the Dally junction by a quarry.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Oyo State Command, Adewale Osifeso, who confirmed the latest incident, said the combined

teams of the AKS, Idi Ayunre Division, other tactical teams, local hunters and the vigilante group had been actively on the trail of the hoodlums.

He said efforts were on to rescue the victims.

Lalong talks tough as soldiers, police rescue four abducted Plateau varsity students

James Abraham, Jos

FOUR students of the Plateau State University, Bokokos, were on Monday kidnapped by gunmen, who attacked their off-campus residence at Ndar community near the campus.

The victims, three females and a male, were, however, rescued a few hours after the incident.

It was, however, learnt that one of the students was shot by the gunmen before they fled into the bush.

The Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Universities in the institution, Dr Bentse Pamson, confirmed the kidnap of the students to our correspondent in Jos on Tuesday.

He said, "Yes, it is true. Some gunmen kidnapped three of our female students and shot another male student.

"ASUU strongly condemns the incident because the need for the state government to address the security challenge in the university was one of the reasons why the union went on strike recently and it is rather unfortunate that the government has not done anything in that regard despite signing a memorandum of action with the union."

The Plateau State Governor, Simon Lalong, on Tuesday said a combined team of security agents carried out the rescue operation of the students.

In a statement by his Director

of Press and Public Affairs, Macham Makut, the governor said, "On receiving the distress call, officers of the Operation Safe Haven, Operation Rainbow, Nigeria Police, and the University Security and Community Watch Group mobilised and went after the kidnappers, who had taken four students. Facing apparent capture, the criminals aborted their mission and ran away, leading to the safe recovery of the students."

Lalong, who commended the security agencies for rising up to the occasion and being proactive, directed the immediate establishment of a police post in the host university's community in order to forestall a reoccurrence.

The governor also directed that security be tightened in all other schools across the state to guarantee the safety of students.

He had last year directed the university's management to improve security in the institution, which led to the



• Lalong

installation of closed circuit television cameras and early warning systems all over the campus as well as the preparation for fencing of the entire campus.

The governor assured the students that all necessary measures would be employed to ensure that they learn and dwell under a peaceful, secure and conducive environment.

Lalong also appealed to the citizens to assist security agencies with relevant intelligence that would lead to not only the arrest of the fleeing kidnappers, but to the apprehension of all criminal elements bent on disrupting the peace of the state.

The NBAWF, in a statement on Tuesday by its Head of Advocacy Committee, Folashade Alli, urged the security agencies to investigate the matter and prosecute the man.

The statement read, "We are distressed to learn that the abuse by her husband was alleged to have gone on over the years. It is painful to know that our late colleague, an advocate, who holds the brief of others, had her life ended in such gruesome circumstances.

"To this end, we demand from the relevant security agencies that the circumstances leading to the death of our dear colleague be thoroughly investigated and the culprit prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

"We have also noted a rise in cases of domestic violence in our society at large. We, therefore, use this medium to call on our female lawyers to speak up and out on domestic violence issues using the platform of the NBAWF, so that such issues can be handled proactively.

"The NBAWF has put in place mechanisms and platforms to help female lawyers to protect themselves in such situations. We will work with the relevant security agencies, family members and friends of our late colleague to ensure that our colleague gets justice."

Delta

rescued and rushed him to the Federal Medical Centre, Asaba.

"There was no sign that the signpost was not firmly fixed, making people to wonder what could have happened had the signpost fallen directly on the road when vehicular traffic was heavy. It could have been a disastrous.

"A second signpost on the same road on the Summit junction by the Benin-Asaba Expressway also poses danger to users of the road."

He added that the rainstorm also pulled down a tree on the premises of the PPEB, which partially blocked the entrance to the office of the Delta State Task Force on the Environment.

Also, three buildings were destroyed on the DLA Road in Asaba, leaving the occupants homeless.