



# Why I blame ASUU, FG for my sister's killing – Undergraduate

*A 23-year-old student of History and International Studies at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu, Chiamaka Okeke, was stabbed to death by robbers in Enugwu-Ukwu, Anambra State. Her younger brother, Samuel, 21, tells GODFREY GEORGE of the family's grief and fight for justice one month after*

explanations or provocation whatsoever from the robbers from what we were told. They just stabbed her. This happened on June 10, 2022. She and her friend, who shared a room with her at UNN, got a job at a shawarma spot, located around Ezi Alias Junction, Enugwu-Ukwu, Nijikoka Local Government of the state. On that day, at 9.30pm, she and her friend were locking up the shop when they were attacked by a group of robbers. They stormed the shop wielding daggers and other weapons. From what we were told by her friend, they asked Chiamaka to surrender her phone to them but she was not with it at that time. We later found out that it (phone) was inside, charging. They immediately dragged her bag from her and stabbed her multiple times on her stomach and around her chest.

She didn't even resist them or argue with them. They just killed my sister for nothing. She was just trying to make ends meet because of this ASUU palaver. I will never forgive ASUU and the Federal Government for this! My sister didn't deserve to die. How much was the salary that she was even paid? How long has she even worked there?

**Was she the only victim of this attack?**

She was the only one who died. The other lady, her friend, ran inside – or was it outside? – and cried for help. It was then almost like they came for her because they faced her directly. Chiamaka really suffered. Her friend said even with the wounds from the stab, she ran out, crying for help till she fainted. My sister suffered! When her roommate saw her on the ground, bleeding, she began to call for help but nobody was willing to help. It was raining so a lot of people were afraid to stop because it was late. Much later, a car stopped and took her to the hospital, but it

was already too late.

**How did you hear she was hospitalised?**

Her friend called us to tell us, so we rushed to the hospital where she was being treated. The doctor who attended to us told us that she was in a coma, noting that the stab wounds were serious because the knife touched a part of her heart. There was no way she was going to survive it. She didn't make it. She bled uncontrollably for hours as we were told. She didn't make it out of that hospital. As it's said nowadays, "Nigeria happened to my sister!"

**Has she been buried?**

We buried her the following day. It is a taboo in our culture to keep such a young person in the mortuary. So, we quickly rushed to the village and laid her to rest. That day was one of the saddest days in my family. Every soul that came that day wept. Her classmates, friends, neighbours, church members, colleagues were all present. My mother couldn't even stand it. She was devastated. Words cannot fully express how this feels for the family even now.

**How has life been without her?**

Honestly, everything just feels so empty and small. Our world can never be the same without Chiamaka. She didn't deserve anything that happened to her. I cannot begin to imagine the pain she passed through before she died; how she struggled for life (sobs). She was supposed to be 23 (years old) on June 23 but she died on June 10. She had even bought most of her birthday outfits, ready for her photo shoot to launch the new age when she was visited by these men of the underworld. Till now, we are still in shock! This is why I blame the ASUU strike. If she were in school, she wouldn't have taken a job that would be the link through which she would be murdered. She just

wanted to make extra income and not be lazy or go into prostitution like many girls would do. It is just sad that we lost her in such a painful manner.

**How many siblings do you have?**

We were six children but with Chiamaka's demise, we are now five. She was the second child. When she was alive, Chiamaka was a really nice person. She would go out of her way to make sure everyone was okay. I cannot forget how many sacrifices she made for me as a sibling. Always smiling with an infectious smile! She was a very friendly lady. The entire neighbourhood couldn't believe it when she passed. There was utter shock everywhere because nobody could believe she could be killed just like that. It was like a movie, a horror movie.

**Was this case reported to the police?**

The man who owns where she was working said he reported it to the police. To our greatest surprise, we found out that he didn't make any report. It was much later when he heard that my family was going to officially report, that he went to the police station and told them to backdate it. When we got to the station to report the matter, the Investigative Police Officer assigned to the case told us a man had just reported the same matter that day and told him to backdate it. We became suspicious of this move. Why didn't he report the case when we told him to? What does he have to hide? Why did he have to lie to us? This is my sister we are talking about here.

**What are the police saying on the matter?**

Well, for now, no arrests have been made; the killers have not been found. I don't know what is currently going on but they (police) said they would track Chiamaka's friend's phone that was stolen that day. They told us to relax because they were working on it. How can we relax? We haven't heard any further news from them? We are just an average family, trying to survive in this country, and we don't want this case to be swept under the carpet.

**What are your demands?**

I beg the Anambra State Commissioner of Police, the Inspector General of Police, the Governor of Anambra State, Prof Charles Soludo, and his wife and all other concerned Nigerians, who love the lives of youths, to come to our aid. My sister's death should not just be in vain. We need justice for her. That is all we cry for justice.

**What is your name and what do you do?**

Samuel Okeke. I am a student of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Anambra.

**Can you tell us about your elder sister that was recently stabbed to death by robbers?**

Her name is Chiamaka. She was a 300-level student of History and International Studies at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She came home to Anambra because of the ASUU strike. Having been at home for a while due to the protracted strike, she decided to get a job so that the burden would not be much on my parents. It was in her workplace that her life was cut short in her prime by robbers. A 23-year-old girl!

**How did this really happen?**

They (robbers) just killed her. (There were) no