

# Daughter of slain C'River monarch cries for justice

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By Ada Wodu

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Late Ndoma

A 19-year-old Senior Secondary schoolgirl, Stella Ndoma, has cried out over the murder of her father, Mbayin Ndoma a.k.a. Otisco, in his hometown in Cross River State.

Stella called on the Inspector-General of Police, Usman Baba, and the Cross River State Commissioner of Police, Aminu Alhassan, to apprehend her father's killers. She added that her father was murdered on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at his hometown in Cross River State.

Ndoma was allegedly murdered in his hometown, Orimekpang Junction, in Boki LGA of Cross River State on August 3, 2022, for sending some suspected cultists away from the community.

Stella, "I was shocked when I learnt that my late father, Mbayin Ndoma, who was a traditional ruler in Orimekpang Community, Boki LGA of Cross River State was shot to death by hoodlums and not even a fly has been arrested in connection with his death."

It was gathered that some youths in the Orimekpang Junction community in Boki LGA of Cross River State were last year sent on exile for years by the community for their alleged involvement in cult-related activities.

The development was said to have angered the banished youths said to have invaded the community at night and murdered Ndoma for his action.

On how her father was killed, Stella said her father got a phone call from an unknown caller who asked him to leave his home at about 12: 20 am, claiming some assassins were coming to take away his life.

She said that immediately her father fled his home, the assassins suspected to be cultists, invaded her father’s home and harassed her father’s wife, Queneth, and demanded to know her husband’s whereabouts. But she was said to have told the assassins that her husband wasn’t at home.

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She narrated, “The assassins spent some time in their victim’s home waiting for the traditional ruler to return home, probably for them to unleash mayhem on him.

“At about 6am as my late father tried to return home from the community secondary school where he took refuge, the assailants attacked him, dragged him to the community secondary school Orimekpang which is a stone’s throw from the traditional ruler’s residence.”

She said after her step-mother heard the gunshots, she ran to the community’s youths and informed them that she heard gunshots around the community school and that her husband had not returned home.

Stella said that the community youths mobilised with the village’s vigilantes and went to the secondary school premises, only to find the traditional ruler’s corpse in the school.

“His assailants left a note on my father’s corpse with an inscription, ‘This is the beginning of war between the community and us. Any man who squeezes bitter leaves with his hands would be bitter’; with another threat note, ‘Anyone who intends to dare us should wait for his turn’”, she said.

Contacted, the Cross River Police Public Relations Officer, SP Irene Ugbo, who confirmed the incident, said police had begun preliminary investigation in the LGA to apprehend the killers.

“The police are already liaising with the leaders of the community to find a way to apprehend the killers of the traditional ruler,” Ugbo said.

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