

# Man Butchers Neighbour

## •Over Phone Calls

EMMAN UNA Calabar

**A** young man, Christian Azebeye, has been killed in Calabar because he was alleged to have made a phone call that "disturbed the peace" of his murderer.

The suspect, Okon John, was a tenant in 227, Ikot Eyamba street in Calabar, Cross River State, the compound where Azebeye had gone to visit a friend.

Currently remanded in police custody at Federal Housing Police Station in Calabar, the suspected murderer was said to have confessed that his provocation was based on the "noisy phone call" which the 29-year old man was making.

The late Azebeye, who was from Bebuagbong in Obubu Local Government Area of the state, reportedly died with deep cuts in his throat, chest, head, hands and other parts of the body.

The deceased, who left his residence at 8 miles, Calabar, was said to have told his heavily pregnant wife that he was going to see a certain businessman. When he got there, the businessman was not in and he decided to contact him on phone. That was when John took offence and attacked him.

Engineer Cletus Azebeye, the elder brother of the deceased, said what culminated in the gruesome murder of the 29-year-old man, started "when Chris was making a call and John suddenly emerged from his bedroom and accused the deceased of disturbing him."

It was alleged that when the suspect attempted to forcefully push the deceased out of the compound, a fight ensued.

After trading punches, they were separated by residents of the area who came to the scene of the incident.

It was alleged that while Christian was explaining to the peacemakers what caused the fight, John allegedly ran into his room and reappeared with a broken bottle with which he stabbed the deceased severally. Though Azebeye was rushed to the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, he died a few hours later.

In statement he made at the Federal Housing Police Station, the Akwa Ibom state-born murder suspect confessed that he

killed Azebeye with a broken bottle because "he was making calls and disturbing me in my room".

His words: "I was in my room when I heard somebody shouting. As he was making phone calls and disturbing me, I came out from my room and told him to stop making noise."

He claimed that the deceased refused to stop and he (John) attempted to send him out of the compound. "When he started fighting me and in self defence, I decided to use a broken bottle on him," he said.

Relations of the deceased have alleged that the Investigation Police Officers are reluctant to transfer the case to the state police headquarters at Diamond Hill, Calabar as they

called for an out of court settlement.

Engineer Cletus, who confirmed the allegation, said some police officers had already sent for him and pleaded that there was need to resolve the case because the suspect's father has promised to bear the funeral expenses.

The Engineer, who told our correspondent that he was not prepared for an out of court settlement, said the death of his younger brother, was a crime against the state and "government should ensure that the perpetrator of the wicked act is brought to justice."

Few hours after Chris was killed and his body was being taken to the mortuary, his pregnant wife was delivered of a baby girl.

Although the case is yet to be transferred to the state police headquarters, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Etim Dickson (ASP), confirmed the incident, and said the suspect will be charged to court after the police conclude preliminary investigations into the matter.



•The victim, Christian Azebeye.