

ArewaReport

From EMMANUEL ADEYEMI, Lokoja

For Alhaji Amidu Shaibu, the 82-year-old man whose son was allegedly murdered by a police sergeant 10 months ago, life has become cruel and meaningless.

This is so as the son, Salifu, a promising Islamic cleric, seemed to be the breadwinner the frail looking old man and his wife could lean on.

Pa Shaibu, who could hardly stand on his own except with the aid of a stick, was seen in accompany with his wife, Adijatu, who has been suffering from one ailment or another since the murder of her son.

The octogenarian, was indeed full of bitterness that 10 months after the extra judicial killing of his son, the police authority has not uttered a word, neither was the corpse of his son released to the family for burial.

The old man wept profusely while narrating his ordeal to *Daily Sun* and disclosed that the deceased, who was reputed to have healed several people of many ailments in the community, was law-abiding and could never hurt a fly.

He said that the police came into his compound at Ojoku-Agbodo, Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi State on October 25, 2012, in company with Eliason and Hassan, both members of the community.

The duo, he alleged, had threatened to deal with the deceased the previous day for failure to participate in the clearing of the village bush path.

He said at 1.00am that fateful day, a



Deceased's father

How police sergeant murdered Islamic cleric

•Corpse still in the morgue 10 months after

team of police men in three police Hilux buses invaded the family compound and started shooting sporadically into the air. When he, along with some members of his family, came out to enquire from them what was happening, the police started beating them, such that he became unconscious and had to be rushed to a nearby clinic where he was revived.

He said one of his sons, Abdulkareem, who arrived the village a couple of days for the Sallah celebration was also beaten to stupor. As the police were dragging him into their waiting vans, he stressed that the deceased, who was pleading with them, was trying to explain that the man being beaten was a visitor when one sergeant suddenly pulled his trigger and shot him.

"At this point, blood was gushing out from the deceased. Members of the community vigilance group, who were at that time attracted to the scene wanted to rush the cleric to the hospital. But the police did not allow them until the boy bled to death.

"Members of my family, who did not sustain injury that night were later arrested and taken to the police station where they were detained for several weeks without a single charge.

"The corpse was taken and is still being kept by the police for no just cause. We do not actually know why they must treat us like this. We pleaded with the police authority to release the corpse of my beloved son so that we can give him a befitting burial but they refused. It is now 10 months that this incident happened and there is no official explanation why they killed my son.

"We have suffered several detentions for having the boldness to ask for the corpse of our son. Salihu was the only breadwinner of the family. Because of this incident, the mother is now suffering from stroke caused by hypertension. I can no longer go to farm, nobody to take proper care of me any more. I am only waiting for death to come.

"The wife of the deceased just gave birth to a two-month old when he was killed; his death has seriously affected the family. I am now using this opportunity to call on the Inspector-General of Police to bring to book those culprits and cause the police to release the corpse of my son."

When *Daily Sun* visited the community recently, those who spoke on the issue described the young Islamic cleric as an easy going, God-fearing man, who was a victim of extra judicial killing.

One of the youths, Elijah Eleojo, said if not because of the intervention of the elders in the community, the youths would have gone on a peaceful demonstration by now.

"The community youths will still organise a peaceful demonstration to prevail on President Goodluck Jonathan and the IGP to look into this extra judicial killing and to bring to book those who killed this gentleman."

A woman, Mama Ojonugba, described the late cleric as a young Mallam, who had healed several people through the Islamic way and wondered why he had to be terminated in such a gruesome manner.

When *Daily Sun* reporter visited the Ankpa Divisional Police headquarters, he was turned back by a stern-looking anti-riot police officer, who claimed the DPO was not available. It was, however, gathered that the culprit had been transferred to another police division. Another officer implicated in the killing was said to have also sought for transfer to another division.

Meanwhile, some of the family members and sympathisers, especially mem-



The late Salihu

bers of the community vigilance group, who were arrested over the incident since October last year are said to still be in police detention.

Police arrest 16 suspected robbers in Katsina

From ANDY ASEMOTA, Katsina.

No fewer than 16 suspected armed rob-

from the suspected bandits who abandoned the vehicles as police closed in on them in Kafur and Dustin-ma Local Government Areas.

the commissioner said there will be strict control of the movement of vehicles in and out of designated Eid grounds to ensure hitch free

3 nursing mothers, 6 other