

# Husband hacks wife to death over wedding certificate

FROM NGOZI  
UWUJARE

**In what seems like a horror tale, a 55-year-old man in Ebonyi State, Joseph Okogbu allegedly committed the hideous crime of hacking his wife, Anna Okogbu to death in cold blood.**

The heartless act was witnessed by one of the eight children Okogbu had with Anna, Chidiebere, who promptly ran off to inform the grandfather that her father had killed her mother.

As Sunday Sun gathered from the Ebonyi State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Maigari Dikko, the horrible incident happened around 8.00am when the suspect Joseph Okogbu, a native of Utso-enyin village in Izzi Local Government Area, Ebonyi State, went to harvest yams in the farm with his wife.

Prior to incident, Okogbu had a running disagreement with Anna over their marriage certificate, which he desperately sought to retrieve from her. Okogbu's eagerness to recover the document was allegedly driven by the suspicion that she wanted to dump him and marry another man,

whose name was given as Linus Ogbu.

"As they were working together in the farm, the disagreement between the couple over the wedding certificate resurfaced. It was said that the deceased Anna was hiding the wedding certificate, which the husband had been demanding for, but the wife refused to give it to him," Dikko explained.

"He believed that in keeping with their tradition, the new husband Anna wanted to marry could claim the eight children that were delivered to him by his wife," he further said.

As the argument over the certificate came up again in the farm, Okogbu beheaded the wife with his cutlass as their daughter, Chidiebere watched in horror, her body momentarily frozen in shock. Just then providence gave the pre-teenage girl a powerful nudge that unfroze her feet and she ran off to break the shocking news to her grandfather, who promptly reported the gruesome and gory murder the police at Iboko Police Station.

The suspect, Okogbu spoke with *Sunday Sun*, he gave a blood-cuddling account that essentially

corroborated what Dikko said.

His words: "I have been having conflict with my late wife Anna Okogbu over our wedding certificate, which was hiding. I learnt that my wife wanted to remarry to another man called one Linus Ogbu. I kept demanding for the wedding certificate but she refused to release it. I paid N15,000.00 to my mother-in-law as bride price. It was the late Rev. Father Okongi who joined us together in marriage at St. John Parish, Iboko. The marriage was blessed with eight children – five girls and three boys. While I was searching for the marriage certificate, she openly told me that she had made up her mind to marry another man called Linus Ogbu.

"I didn't report my wife's action to anybody because I was even suspecting that my father-in-law was supporting her daughter's action. It was around 8.00am, we both went together to the farm to harvest the yam. While we were in the bush, I asked my wife again about the marriage certificate. She told me that she could not produce it and re-stated that she wanted to marry Linus.



•Suspect

"I became very annoyed because I knew that if she married him, Linus would end up claiming my eight children. In anger, I used my cutlass to remove my wife's head and started cutting her body until she died in the pool of her blood. I have regretted my action. My family should forgive me. I know that I have committed an offence of murder."

Expectedly, the relations of the deceased wife are bitter over the death of their daughter and clamouring for justice to be done.

Anna's distraught father

**'As the argument over the certificate re-started in the farm, Okogbu beheaded the wife with his cutlass as their daughter, Chidiebere watched in horror, her body momentarily frozen in shock.'**



•Dikko, Ebonyi State CP

could hardly hold back tears as he spoke with *Sunday Sun*, rhetorically querying: "If my daughter wanted to re-marry another man, should that prompt the husband to kill her in the bush when in actual fact he was not taking good care of her and the children?"

He spoke further: "My daughter had been suffering in her matrimonial home; her husband maltreated her and didn't bother about the eight children she had for him. We want justice to be done over the death of our daughter."

Meanwhile, Dikko said that Anna's corpse had been deposited at the General Hospital Mortuary at Iboko while investigations continue. He also gave assurance that the case would ultimately be charged to court.