

# 'Eleven months after man fell to bullet of STF, widow still asks 'has my husband died in vain?'



• Mrs Nankyar Dauda and son

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**I**t is 11 months now since her husband fell to the bullet fired by a member of the Special Task Force on Jos crisis, (STF). But Mrs. Nankyar Dauda and other family members of Mr. Wagley Dauda have been left to lick the wound of that painful incident.

The pain appears to have been aggravated by the fact that the family has not heard anything from the Special Task Force as a way of compensation or retribution or better still, to know what has been done to the soldier who shot at the moving vehicle; that killed Mr. Dauda and wounded the taxi driver, whom the soldier said he had wanted to shoot for taking the wrong way.

It all happened on February 16, 2013 after a burial service for a relation when late Wagley Dauda was returning to work at the

University of Jos where he was a security man. After the church service, he had boarded a taxi to take him to Terminus. Unfortunately, the driver of the vehicle had decided to take a wrong way because of the slow vehicular movement. This infuriated the STF man who on spotting him, shot at the moving vehicle. The bullet penetrated the driver's left shoulder before lodging itself in the chest of the deceased. The driver survived the incident while Mr. Dauda died in the hospital.

According to the wife of the deceased, Mrs. Nankyar Dauda, the Special Task Force played its role in moving her husband to the Military hospital and the Jos University Teaching hospital where he died. But since he was buried, till date, she has never heard anything from STF again.

Hear her: "I got an SMS of what the STF read at the burial. They changed everything about what happened. They said the vehicle was shot at, because the soldier was suspicious of the driver who he asked to stop but instead of obeying him, he was trying to manoeuvre his way to get away. This was different from what we heard. The offence of the man was that he took a wrong way and his vehicle was shot."

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Middle-Belt Today gathered that at the time her husband died, she had just completed her diploma programme in Secretariat Studies, at the Plateau State Polytechnic. Because her husband was barely two years on the job, he was not entitled to anything much. But the University authority was magnanimous enough to ask her to apply to the institution and now she works there.

The mother of one, said her main problem is looking after the boy, who was about six months old when his father died. "By next year, he will start school. I do not know how I will cope alone. My husband was from a poor family. Nobody is there to assist me. Because I have to go to work, I have employed a maid who I pay to look after the boy when I am away. Now I have to cater for the two of them. If I add school fees to this, I do not know how I will cope.

Since the incident, no government official contacted me or the family. We have been

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copied alone," she complained.

When contacted, the media man of the Special Task Force, Col. Salisu Mustapha said the force was alive to its responsibilities and even when they were not directly involved, they have gone ahead to assist victims and assured that the military would still do something to ameliorate the sufferings of the victim's family. He said the STF man would not have shot the vehicle if it was not being suspected.

Commenting on the incident, the Zonal Director of the Civil Liberty Organization, CLO, Mr. Steve Aluko Daniel said it was high time government stopped the impunity being exhibited by military personnel before it is consumed by it. He said the over-militarization of the polity should be stopped, while the level of sanity of the people entrusted with arms are examined to ensure the arms do not be under the control of an insane man.

Otherwise, he added, why would one shoot at a moving vehicle? If the tyre is shot at, it is enough to demobilize the vehicle and punitive measures taken against the driver, he declared.

The CLO boss further said that in cases where victims are wounded, government should take responsibility for their treatment and where they are killed, the families should be compensated, adding that "the blood of Mr. Dauda is still crying for justice to be done because his dreams to further his education, get a better job and give his son a good education died with him. His family still resides in his one room apartment at Jenta Adamu which the single mother still pays the rent."

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