

## 80-year-old father of slain activist grieves

Over alleged plot to release son's killers, cries for justice

FROM CHUKS ONUOHA, UMUAHIA

**C**hief Okoronkaya Nwosu, an 80-year-old native of Amaeke Abam in Arochuku Abia State, lives with indescribable pain in his heart. All day he sobs and cries and cannot find peace. He refuses to be consoled because his son Comrade Chidi Nwosu, whom he loved and dearly cherished, is gone. The thought of death and not having Chidi at his graveside bothers him so deeply.

Chidi, a human rights activist was allegedly gruesomely murdered by some unknown assailants in his home at Amaeke, Abam in Arochuku Local Government

Area. The dastardly incident happened in December 2010. Everyday, Chief Nwosu lives with the hope that the murderers of his son would be punished according to the law. But that hope appears to be fading.

Just recently, his pain and sorrow were further aggravated by the news reaching him that the suspects were well on their way to freedom. The men who were standing trial all the while, it was said, might be released for apparent lack of diligent prosecution.

Sobbing uncontrollably as he narrated how his son was murdered, Pa Nwosu recalled that the case commenced in January 2013 with suit No HAR/2C/2013 after three years of alleged dilly-dallying by the office of the Director



The late Nwosu

of Public Prosecution DPP, Abia State. The suspects, whom he named one after the other, he insisted, murdered his son for no justifiable reason.

He is visibly unhappy that the lawyer from DPP who prosecuted the matter failed woefully to field the star witness in the case, Mrs Amaka Biachi Nwosu, who is widow of the slain activist, to testify in court. He alleged that the failure seemed to have created doubts in the mind of the court.

"As a result of that failure of prosecution, the lawyer for the accused persons entered a no case

submission on behalf of all the accused persons," he said.

He expressed fears that the court might finally release the accused persons and absolve them of the crime.

Pa Nwosu, is therefore, calling on the judicial authorities to ensure that justice is done.

"Even though I have endured the death of my son, who was the bread winner of the family and have stayed alive till today – because when it happened, I did not know that I would survive it – I want justice to be done so that when I go to meet him, he would

know that I did not let him down both in life and in death," he said as tears welled up in his eyes.

He pleaded with the court to order the star witness, Mrs Amaka Nwosu, to testify to what she knew about the killing of her husband or the degree of the involvement of those standing trial in the case.

Speaking on the matter, the president of Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) Abia State chapter, Barrister Pedro Azuogu, said that CLO shared the same view with Pa Nwosu.

"Yes, the court should hold onto further judgement and make further orders to bring Mrs Amaka Nwosu to court to give evidence on what she knew about the killing of her husband and how those standing trial were involved in the matter. This sort of exercise does not exist in criminal trial where a witness whose evidence is germane to the proper determination of the case does not appear in court."

Nwosu, an Aba-based human rights activist was murdered in his home in December 2010 shortly after the Abia State Government appointed him chairman of a board. The CLO, Abia State branch, and human rights family have meanwhile frowned at what they described as lackadaisical prosecution of his killers.

Born in 1971 in Amaeke, Abam, Nwosu met his untimely death in the hands of assailants at the unripe age of 39 years.