

Hoodlums kill 70-year-old goat dealer in Nsukka

FROM CHRIS NNADI, NSUKKA

It was a tragic day at Obukpa community in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State at the weekend when a 70-year-old man, Mr Chukwuma Onah, was allegedly butchered to death by suspected hoodlums.

The late Onah, a renowned goat dealer met his untimely death on his way to Nkwo Ibagwa market early Thursday morning when unknown hoodlums waylaid him along Obukpa/Ibagwa road.

A reliable source told Oriental News that the hoodlums numbering about three had laid an ambush for the deceased to

dispossess him of about two goats he was carrying on his motorbike to the market that early morning.

It was gathered that these men who were equally on a motorbike double-crossed him on the track road and asked him to hand over the goats to them, but he resisted.

As he was about to come to terms with what was happening, one of them allegedly pushed him down from his motorcycle and began to untie the goats from the back of the motorbike.

The source said that when Mr Onah realized that the hoodlums had overpowered him, he started shouting for help, infuriated them and they decided to cut his face with axes and machetes.

According to the source, when they discovered that the deceased had become so weak and could not shout any longer, they made away with the two goats, leaving the deceased to

bleed to death.

One of the sons of the deceased, Onyema Onah told Oriental News that it was around 7:00a.m that one of the customers of the deceased called them on phone to know why their father was yet to get to Ibagwa market contrary to their early agreement that he should be in the market before 7:00a.m.

Thinking that his motorcycle might have spoilt on his way to the market, they set out to trace him on the track road leading to the market.

The young Onah said that it was then that they discovered that their father had been butchered severely and his two goats carted away by unknown persons.

He said that the deceased was then rushed to Ezenwa Hospital, Obukpa for medical treatment.

His words: "When he was taken to the hospital, I was asked to donate my blood because he had lost a lot of blood, which I did. Few minutes after donating the blood, the doctor came back with the pint of blood, telling me that he has given up the ghost. We then reported to the police who came to take some pictures of the crime scene. As I am talking to you now, our life is danger because we don't know who did this to our father."

It was gathered that the late Onah was buried on the same day, following his earlier instruction that should he die, he should not be deposited in a mortuary.

When contacted, the Divisional Police Officer, Nsukka Urban headquarters, Mr James Nwokolo was not in the office, but a senior police officer who pleaded anonymity confirmed the incident, saying that investigation into the matter was still ongoing.



• Onaha