

Life & Living

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Like other young Nigerians squeezed by the excruciating economic realities in the country, Chukwudi Ohakwe left for London in search of the proverbial greener pasture. While in London, he saved some money and returned home and built a bungalow at Idanyin Ishaga village, Igbesa, Ogun State.

The house appears the most beautiful in that community that is yet feel government presence. Being a developing area, Chukwudi's mercantile instinct was brought to bear, and he was quick to realise that block making was a good investment. In this vein, he set up a block-moulding factory and bought delivery truck to add value to the business.

He was doing well and contributing to the development of the community, which etched him in the hearts of the villagers.

Event took a new twist, when in the evening of November 15, last year, he was murdered alongside his daughter, while his wife who was also attacked lost her six months old pregnancy and is in a critical condition in the hospital.

With the help of villagers, one Ezekiel Sabulatu (popularly called Dangote in the community), a very close friend of Chukwudi, and another suspect, were arrested, and later released by the court as the police refused to send the case file to the court in spite of an order from the Ogun State Commissioner of Police. The case file was just sent to the court about two weeks ago.

Mr. Cletus Ohakwe, younger brother to Chukwudi poignantly told *Saturday Sun* how his brother's family was almost wiped out.

Cletus said, on November 15, 2014, he was resting at home when somebody knocked his door. "I went and opened for him because I know him. His name is Dada, one of the workers of my elder brother, late Chukwudi Ohakwe. He was fidgeting, and I couldn't understand what he was saying. He told me that my brother and his family members were in the hospital. I asked him what happened to them, he said I should come with him to the hospital and see for my self."

According to him, when he got to Badagry Hospital, and was taken to the mortuary,

WAITING FOR JUSTICE

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he couldn't comprehend what he saw. "My brother and his daughter of about ten were lying lifeless on the floor. I asked the mortuary attendants the reason for this grotesque development. They said they don't know that I should go and meet the doctors."

They told him that between 2am and 3am that day the police brought the corpses to the hospital, and after stitching deep cuts on their bodies, they had to embalm them. Also brought along side the dead were his brother's wife, Mercy, in a very critical condition - with bandages all over her body. She was placed under intensive care.

When he later asked one of the policemen who brought them to the hospital, he was told how at 2 am, somebody from Idanyin Ishaga, near Agabara, Ogun State came and reported that he discovered a family of two lying lifeless with deep machete cuts on their bodies. The police told him that they followed the complainant to the scene and found Chukwudi and his wife in the pool of blood in the sitting room. The wife was still breathing, while Chukwudi was dead. They took them to the hospital. While father and daughter were taken to the morgue, his wife, Mercy, who was six months pregnant, was placed under intensive care, where she lost the pregnancy.

Cletus said, he went to see the Baale of the village, Alhaji Kazeem Adeniyi on November 17, and he explained to him how the community heard about the murder.

The Baale told me: "About 10pm on November 14, Dada with police men came and told us what he discovered, and we followed them to Chukwudi's house, and found out that he and his daughter were dead, while his wife was still breathing, and they brought out their cars and take them to the hospital."

Continuing, Cletus said, he was told that there was somebody who has been calling Dada repeatedly on phone, and his name is Ezekiel Sabulatu, a very close friend of the deceased and both are into the same block-moulding business.

"I later called Dada and asked him what



The late Ohakwe