



## HOW WAS LT. B. N EDIM KILLED BY FRIENDLY FORCES ON SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2015 AT 12:30PM?

Lt. B. N. Edim was allegedly shot dead on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 at 12:30pm by soldiers of 144 Battalion Asa, Abia State who were supposed to be his subordinates and his cover in an operation to rescue an unknown kidnapped victim at Ogunabor LGA in Abia State.

Before his gruesome murder he was the Adjutant (Head of Administration) at 144 Battalion, Asa, Abia State, as a result of this position he was well known by all officers and soldiers serving in the battalion. Information gathered from a broken-hearted, good-spirited officer within the barracks (who pleaded anonymity) revealed that Lt. B. N. Edim was generally viewed by most of his colleagues as been too dedicated, strict and uncompromising in the discharge of his lawful official assignments.

Authorities at 144 Battalion, Asa, Abia State, informed the family of the deceased that Lt. B. N. Edim was allegedly shot dead by his own soldiers because he was not recognized by his own soldiers at an operation in which he was the one who deployed the soldiers to the said assignment.

By Virtue of the position of Lt. B. N. Edim as the adjutant of 144 Battalion, Asa, Abia State, he was entitled to a driver, on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 when he was assigned by his commanding officer Lt. Col. K U Sidi to embark on the operation his driver was nowhere to be found which prompted the deceased to drive himself to the venue of the operation where he met the ground troop already awaiting his arrival.

The ground troop debriefed him on the state of the operation and he moved in their company to carry out his assignment, but before he could start his assignment there was sudden opening of fire on him from the advance troop who were already on ground before his arrival on the guise that they did not recognize his person. Reliable information from within the battalion has it that the driver was sent out before the deceased could have wind of his whereabouts.

According to Lt. Col. K U. Sidi of 144 Battalion Asa, Abia State, the said kidnap rescue operation is a regular routine in which even himself used to be involved in at some times. In such a regular routine operation how could the soldiers not recognize their Adjutant?

A close examination of the remains of Lt. B. N. Edim reveals that: he had 6 bullet wounds extending from the mid-chest region through the left chest wall and the left lower abdomen to the proximal 3<sup>rd</sup> of the left thigh. Also present are some degree of head injury and other extra-artillery injuries such as lacerations/bruises in both Upper and lower limbs.

Comparing the facts on ground and the information giving to the family by the military authorities at 144 Battalion Asa, it is obvious that there is a desperate systemic attempt by the military authorities to cover up the real story behind what resulted to the death of Lt. B. N. Edim.

From all these observations, the family on the deceased and indeed the general public demand answers to the following questions.

- Can six shots be said to be accidental from a friendly force?
- Why was one of the purported kidnappers short in the leg and the officer leading the operation shot six times at points that never gave him any chance of survival, and all others soldiers who were in his company were unhurt?
- If Lt. B. N. Edim was killed by the gun shots, why was there other injuries on his body such as the head injuries and the lacerations in both upper and lower limbs (could he have been tortured before he was killed or killed by torture)?
- As at the time of this incident the deceased was having on him his service pistol: who dispossessed him of his service Pistol before he was moved to the mortuary?
- Who was the soldier that pulled the trigger on his adjutant by 12:30pm (broad day light) claiming not to have recognized him and didn't shoot any other person in his company?

The family of the deceased demands answers to these questions and calls upon the military authorities at 82 Div Nigerian Army and the Chiefs of Defense and Army staff to as a matter of immediacy expedite action in setting up a commission of inquiry to properly investigate the matter and bring all those who are involved in the gruesome murder of their son to justice.

The family has also demanded an independent forensic pathologist to be engaged alongside the military pathologist to carry out an autopsy on the remains of Lt. B N. Edim to determine the true cause of his death and make public their findings in order to forestall further insider assassination within the military and paramilitary circles.

**WO. Charles N. Edim (Rtd.)**  
Deceased Father