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[BUSINESS](#)
[SPORTS](#)
[EDITORIAL](#)
[ENTERTAINMENT](#)
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[OPINION](#)
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YOU ARE AT: [Home](#) » [COVER](#) » DSS' mission to arrest suspect ends in tragedy

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DSS' mission to arrest suspect ends in tragedy

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BY OUR REPORTER ON AUGUST 20, 2015

COVER

- Father shot dead

FROM TONY OSAUZO, BENIN

A midnight mission by the Department of Security Service(DSS) operatives to arrest one Omozokpia, over an alleged fraud, has ended up in tragedy in Ekpoma, Edo State, with the killing of his father, Christopher Irabor, who was a potter in the School of Medicine, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma,

The victim was allegedly shot inside his room when the officials stormed his residence at Uwene quarters of Illeh village in Ekpoma, Esan West Local Government.

The operatives, who came from Benin City, were on the trail of Omozokpia.

According to Christopher's widow, Faith, the DSS men came to their house at about 12 midnight and forced everybody outside.

She sad her husband held the door to their room to prevent the security operatives from gaining entry, but they were overpowered.

Mrs Irabor narrated that one of the DSS officials shoved a gun into her husband and she heard a loud bang after which her husband fell in a pool of blood.

She said the operatives shot sporadically and later took away her younger son because Omozokpia, the first son they came for, was not at home.

However, a DSS operative who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the late potter was shot because he

attempted to disarm one of them, adding that the victim first hit one of the men with a cutlass before struggling the gun with him.

He said they got to the residence with the suspect's friend and when the friend knocked, occupants of the building refused to open the door.

According to him, they broke in and started assembling occupants in the house, but those in a particular room refused to come out, explaining that it was when they attempted to break into the room that the landlord used a cutlass on one of them and attempted to collect the gun, prompting then to shoot.

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M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
« Jul						