

# ne, Court & Living

## Girl, 20, bites man to death

By Itoro Godwin

A 20-year-old girl has been arrested for allegedly biting a man to death.

The girl, Onyinyechi Okoro is being interrogated at the Homicide section of the state Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, Lagos.

Daily Sun gathered that the deceased, Pius Ezema and the suspect were neighbours at 15, Ondo Street, Ebute Metta area of Oyingbo, Lagos.

The two had been quarreling over the way the suspect, Okoro used to shout during prayer session.

It was gathered that Ezema had warned Okoro severally not to shout while praying.

On the fateful day, Okoro was said to be shouting during her usual morning devotion and Ezema allegedly stormed her room and beat her mercilessly.

A neighbour, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said: "We heard Onyi, as she is fondly called, crying for help. We rushed in and rescued her from Ezema who was beating her with a whip. We thought that the quarrel was over, but we were shocked that when Onyi came out from her room, Ezema started beating her again. It was during the second beating that Ezema bit his thumb. The man now left her alone and went inside his room. We were surprised the following day, when one of his relatives raised the alarm that he is dead.

"I think he died because he did not treat the bite. I pray that God will save Onyi, because she bit him in self-defence."

The suspect, who was weeping as she narrated her ordeals, said: "I don't still believe that I killed Ezema. We have been neighbours. I have been staying with my elder sister in the house for six years now. I am not a troublesome person. I love God and I praise Him daily.

Trouble started for me one day when I was praising God beside Ezema's window. He warned me to stop disturbing him. I now pleaded for forgiveness. He warned I should go into my room each time I would want to sing.

"I started singing and praising God always in our room. On the fateful day, I was in the spirit singing and praising God during my morning devotion, when all of a sudden, Ezema forced himself into our room, shouting that I could not heed his warning to stop disturbing people with my prayers.

He was mad at me that he started beating me. He flogged me. When I seized the whip, he started punching and kicking me. I was crying for help. He locked the door behind us. Our neighbours tried to rescue me, but they could not come in as the door was locked. He beat me to a pulp before he left me and walked out of the room.

"After explaining why he was beating me to my neighbours, they were annoyed with him, but they could not do anything. Well, as I was stepping out of the room to go and treat myself, Ezema descended on me again. This time round, he brought out a knife, held me by my neck and threatened to slit my throat. I now fought back as I grabbed his thumb and bit him.

He was forced to leave me. I bit him because he pushed me to the wall. I was fighting for my life.

After leaving me alone, I called my boyfriend to prevail on him to let me be. He now agreed that he won't beat me again.

"When I returned home, after two days, I was told that Ezema had died. I was shocked and asked who killed him. My neighbours told me that he did not come out since after our quarrel. They told me that his relatives came to the house when they could not get him on phone. They now forced the door open and found him lying face down while he was foaming from his mouth. I was confused. Some of my neighbours advised that I should run away before the police would pick me up. I refused to run because, I didn't believe that I killed him. I was later arrested by the police.

"I want to say that I had no intention of killing him. He came to attack me. He beat me twice and I bit him when my life was in danger. God will save me."



• Suspect