

The house where the incident occurred (Inset: Chibuike's stabbed leg)

Blind rage: Man stabs brother to death over earphone

• Let law take its course -Father

By HENRY OKONKWO

A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD man, Mr. Chibuike Ijeoma is now in police net for allegedly stabbing and killing his younger brother, Mr. Ifeanyi Ijeoma, with a broken bottle.

This tragic incident *Saturday Sun* gathered happened at Sowemimo Street at Sabo-Ajangbadi, at 7pm on May 4. Chibuike and his 18-year-old half-brother Ifeanyi, started with a shouting match that morning and it culminated into a brawl later in the evening. Many said the scuffle all started like a show of

youthful exuberance and violent rage. But nobody bargained that blood would be spilled, or anyone would be killed.

On that fateful day, Chibuike and Ifeanyi had a heated argument over a piece of earphone before both left for their various places of work. Chibuike works at a CCTV shop at F-Line in Ojo-Alaba Int'l market, while the late Ifeanyi was an apprentice trader. "Both left for work probably nursing animosity for each other," an eyewitness said. "When they returned that evening, they started quarrelling again until Chibuike broke a bottle and came for Ifeanyi. If-

eanyi stood his ground thinking his half-brother was only going to threaten him with the broken bottle. But Chibuike filled with anger stabbed Ifeanyi on the left leg. I don't know the kind of devil that came into him that very evening", the source added.

The stab left a deep cut on Ifeanyi's leg and he bled so badly. He was then rushed to nearby Sabo Hospital, but the hospital attendants said they could not handle Ifeanyi's critical condition. They also went to Shibiru Hospital from where they again directed that Ifeanyi be taken to Igando General Hospital. On



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their way to the hospital, he bled to death.

Saturday Sun learnt that the late Ifeanyi and Chibuike share the same father but have different mothers. Chibuike's mother, Mrs. Esther Ijeoma has five children (four boys and a girl). And 15 years after Ifeanyi was born, it was not until last year that Mr. Ijeoma decided to bring him into his home. It was further gathered that Ifeanyi's coming did not seem to go down well with the other children because they were not getting along well with him.

According sources, when they finished fighting over an earphone that morning, the late Ifeanyi was said to have threatened Chibuike. Telling him, 'You don buy case,' meaning 'you've brought trouble for yourself'. Chibuike did not find the threat funny because he knew his half-brother was said to have grown up in the notorious Shibiru neighbourhood. However, the two brothers left for work that morning, all seething with rage.

Saturday Sun was also told that Chibuike came back that evening fuming and accusing Ifeanyi of sending two dangerous looking persons to make inquiries about him from his colleagues when he was out working in the field. So after work, Chibuike went to report the incident to their father but he wasn't home. So he told his mother. When his mum called Ifeanyi to ask, the deceased denied the allegation. The denial was what got Chibuike angry. They started shouting at each other, before it led into a fight, during which Chibuike stabbed Ifeanyi on the leg with a broken bottle which led to his death".

The matter was immediately reported to Ajangbadi Police Station, from where detectives were detailed to arrest Chibuike.

Mr Ijeoma, an indigene of Umuaka, in Imo State was initially evasive when contacted by *Saturday Sun*. But in a brief phone chat, he said that the law should take its full course on Chibuike for killing his half-brother, Ifeanyi. "I don't want to say much because I understand that the matter is already in court. But I would say this loud and clear, that the law should take its full course on my son if he's found guilty. I was in church when the incident happened. I won't support evil, so justice should be served. Chibuike should face the consequences of his action. Both of them are my sons, I didn't pick Ifeanyi from the gutter. What happened was that Chibuike killed his brother for whatever reason best known to him. So whatever the law of the land says should be meted out to him", he added.