

Couple murdered on farm

By Christopher Oji

A couple, Mr. Rowland Ugorji George and his wife, Ukachi, have been murdered on their plantain farm in Umkuaku Isaala Mbutu community in Abo Mbaire Local Government Area of Imo State. They were butchered.

Family of the deceased has accused a pastor as the mastermind, alleging that the deceased had been having a running battle with him over a parcel of land.

The family has cried out to the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Taiwo Lakanu, to fish out the killers.

Narrating their ordeal, the first son of the couple, Chukwudi, told *Daily Sun*: "On the fateful day, my parents had returned from the farm before me. I came in late in the evening. I met my father eating while my mother was taking her bath. I dropped my bicycle and left for the Market Square near our house.

"As I was going, my uncle who lives in the next building was discussing with some people.

"When I returned about one and half hour later, I could not see my parents. I started searching from room to room, but they were not at home. I didn't expect any foul-play even though it was unusual for my parents to go out together after a work day. I ate, but I was bothered, so, I went to all our neighbours, asking for my parents, but none knew where they were. One of our neighbours even told me that she even came to buy firewood from my mother, but nobody was at home.

"I called my uncles and my aunts, and none claimed to have seen them. I returned home, thinking of where they may have gone. I slept off till the following morning, Tuesday, May 31. It was my aunt, Nnaji, my father's elder sister, who came to enquire whether I have seen them. When I told her that I have not seen them, she ran to my father's half brother. On our way back home in company with a community leader, Raymond Nwanedo, we met Mr Sunday Nwagwuekpe and his wife, who were crying.

"Nwagwuekpe beckoned on Raymond and told him that he had found my father. When we got to the plantation, we saw my father's body. His mouth, neck tied with cloth and with matchete cuts all over his body. I ran to inform our relatives.

"On my way, Mr. Joe Anyanwau, broke the news that my mother's body has also been found covered with palm fronds, several poles away from where my father's body was found," he said.

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