

Tragedy: Robbers kill victim for threatening them with cutlass

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- *They begged me to rush him to hospital, not to give him drinking water –Wife*
- *He had premonition of his death –Brother*
- *Police yet to make any arrestRI*

By Romanus Ugwu

For the Amenkhenan Oyakhilome family in Ewu, Auchi, Edo State, January 31, 2017, could have passed like every other bright and beautiful day. Their son, Yusuf Oyakhilome, full of life as usual, had enjoyed almost the whole day to the fullest.

He had gone through a busy schedule of taking his children to school, transacting banking business, visiting his construction project sites as a professional building technologist and visiting his friends and relatives, without any intuition that tragedy awaited him that same night.

Barely five months after packing into his newly constructed bungalow at the Kwakwashe Madala Phase 2 area of Niger State, near the FCT, death knocked on his door. Going by the serenity around his house, Yusuf had no reason to suspect that cruel death in the hands of marauders would claim him that night.

Described as accommodating, generous, a peacemaker, the 33-year-old Yusuf, already preparing for his 34 birthday next month, had enjoyed a warm relationship with his neighbours. Highly energetic and industrious, he had everything working for him, wealth, family life and a professional career.

Within a few months of moving into his house, where he eventually lost his life, he graded a road, drilled a borehole and renovated the only mosque for the Muslim faithful in his neighbourhood. He was also said to have reconciled the feuding Muslim groups in his area.

On that faithful Tuesday, Yusuf had had a hectic day putting everything in place for his trip to Auchi the next day, Wednesday, over the death of his grandmother. After visiting his project sites, he rejoined his wife, two daughters and a four-month-old son at home.

With every arrangement for his trip concluded, Yusuf had almost retired to bed when the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) restored power that night, taking him outside to switch on the water pump that provides water to the neighbourhood.

It was shortly after switching off the pump that the strange intruders stormed his compound. Ordering Yusuf's neighbour, who had raised the alarm to inquire of their mission, to retire to his house because, according to them, Yusuf was the sole target. The robbers headed straight for Yusuf's compound .

Scaling the fence, they gained entrance into Yusuf's compound, and they deployed every wicked means to penetrate inside the securely locked living and sitting rooms, including using a gas cylinder to shatter the window glass panes and iron burglary proof.

Perhaps, mistaking the robbers for harmless hungry youths, Yusuf tried to scare away the intruders with a cutlass. But that turned out to be a costly mistake as his action did not only infuriate the robbers but also made them to murder him.