

Siblings murder 23-year-old trainee salesman

From John Adams, Minna

HOMICIDE detectives of the Niger State police command are baffling to unravel why two brothers gruesomely murdered a 23-year-old trainee salesman in broad daylight inside his master's shop.

The victim, Ebuka Eze, who hails from Enugu Ezike, Enugu State, had his throat slit after he was wrestled to the ground. His alleged killers, who also hail from the Southeast zone and are his acquaintances, were caught in the act while attempting to sever his head. The bizarre incident occurred on Saturday, October 28.

Four days before he was murdered, the suspects, 22-year-old Henry Sunday and Ekana Sunday, aged 24, were said to have visited the deceased's shop at regular intervals to enquire prices of some items, unknown to him that they were monitoring him to execute an evil plot. Ebuka did not suspect danger because the duo was children of his long-time customer simply identified as Sunday, who hails from Arondizuogu, Imo State.

Convinced that they had a chance penultimate Saturday, they struck at about 10am. As soon as they entered the shop located at Bosso, a suburb of Minna, they lured Ebuka, whose Abuja-based principal deal in chemicals into an inner apartment and locked the door. Then, they murdered him in cold blood.

But he did not succumb to the cruel claws of death without some resistance, and his shrill cries for help before his last breath was said to have attracted a woman who traded in provision nearby. Sensing danger, she raised the alarm to which workers at a car wash opposite the shop responded swiftly, and were shocked to behold a gory scene as they forced the door open. Ebuka's head had almost been severed by the two brothers, who stood dazed, their hands soiled in blood.

Caught in the act, the suspects were almost lynched by a mob but were rescued by policemen from the Bosso divisional headquarters who whisked them away. The brothers from hell, who resided at Kpakungu, also a Minna suburb, are presently in custody at the Criminal Investigation Department of the Niger State police command.

One week after the incident, residents of Minna are yet to fathom the motive. They are shocked at the guts of the young men to embark on the evil mission in broad daylight at a busy neighbourhood. Was it a brazen murder propelled by ritual

homicide detectives would provide an answer since Ebuka's assailants had attempted to sever his head.

But Peter Eze, his 65-year-old father would not be persuaded by consolations that the act was the will of God.

"This is not an act of God, no! I can't believe this; it is difficult to attribute this devilish act to the will of God. Those who killed my son must tell me why they did it; he has not committed any crime to deserve this painful death and the law must take its course," he wailed.

Amaka Eze, the deceased's younger sister who paid him a visit from their village a few weeks ago, spoke on his last moments. She said her brother left home on the day the incident occurred after observing the morning prayers without any premonition of his death.

"The only thing he told me before he left the house was that I should come to the shop with an empty gallon so that he could buy fuel in the evening for our generator.

"It was not up to one hour that he left the house that two girls came to inform me that some boys had attacked my brother in the shop and that he was in the hospital. When I got to the shop, I saw people gathered and blood everywhere; that was when I knew that my brother had been killed."

His immediate elder brother, Harrison, who also resides in Enugu State, is inconsolable. Two days earlier, he spoke on phone with Ebuka, who promised to be with him at home next month to celebrate Christmas. Then, he was jolted by news of his sudden death.

"Those people who killed him must not go unpunished. It's only God that knows why they killed my brother; this is very difficult for the family to swallow," he said.

Ebuka, the second child of his parents, had left them to learn salesmanship under an unnamed boss at Abuja in 2008, shortly after graduating from secondary school. After serving his master for five years, he was relocated in 2013 to Minna, where he took charge of an outlet of the enterprise. He had two years to complete his training and be set up by his master when his dream of owning a flourishing business was abruptly cut short.

Abigail Unaeze, a Superintendent of Police and spokesperson for the Niger State police command said the suspects were under interrogation and would soon