

"I was involved in another crime when I assisted my boss to arrange a hired killer to murder his opponent, but at the end of the day, the killer was arrested by the police. They came for me but I escaped to Lagos where I started selling ladies' clothes. The police seized all my property.

"I never believed that I could be arrested. I believed there was no trace that I killed the deceased lecturer. I couldn't believe it when the Anti-Kidnapping Squad arrested me in my girlfriend's house in Ikot-Ekpene. I confessed to the detectives and took them to the bush where I buried the deceased. I want the family of the deceased and my mother to forgive me."

Another suspect, Vincent Nsiong Udoh, 26, said he merely helped the brothers get someone to buy the vehicle, explaining that he never knew it was stolen.

His words: "I hail from Ikong Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State and I am a painter by profession. I reside in Port Harcourt. I came across Epharaim Akpabio and his brother who wanted to sell a Lexus 300 in Port Harcourt. They told me that they wanted to sell their father's car because their father was dead. They told me they wanted to use the money for burial. I went to stand as surety for the documents which enabled them to sell the car for N700,000.

"They didn't give me a kobo from the money. After five years, I saw a police detective who came to arrest me on March 17 2021 in Port Harcourt. The police said that I am involved in the sale of a stolen car. I was shocked, because I am innocent in this case. I didn't get involved in the evil act that Akpabio and his brother committed in Akwa Ibom by killing the lecturer. I want justice to be done in my case."

Younger brother of the deceased, Mr. Otobong Edward said the family had been in agony for close to six years.

"When the incident happened in November 2015, myself and his wife reported the case at Akwa Ibom State Police command and the DSS office in Uyo. We are six children from our parents. Late Cyprian Anthony Edward was the first born of the family. My late elder brother was a lecturer at that school for ten years.

"We were so glad when we received a message from the Anti-Kidnapping Squad, Imo State Police Command that those who killed my elder brother about six years ago have been arrested, and that his car had been recovered. My late elder brother's wife, Blessing, has reported the case to the Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic authorities. Soon, we will perfect everything with the police personnel and fix the date when we will bury my elder brother and take the car," he stated.