



METRO AND CRIME

Son murders 82-year-old mother for money ritual



Published 9 hours ago on May 10, 2018

By **Correspondents**



Police have arrested a man, Christopher Okadigbo (52), of Nando community in Anar State for allegedly killing his 82-year-old mother for money ritual.

Okadigbo, according to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), was arrested with his friend Ameke Udolu, after they killed Mrs. Rosaline Okadigbo and dismembered her body for

ritual. The left eye and heart of the octogenarian had been removed when her body was found in her apartment at Nando in the Anambra East Local Government Area on May 2.

The first son of the deceased, Chief Innocent Okadigbo, who confirmed the developments on Wednesday at Nando, said he was convinced that his younger brother's motive was to remove his mother's body parts for ritual to get rich quick. Innocent said that his late mother had called him on May 1 to report suspicious moves by Christopher and Udolu around her apartment.

He said: "My mother told me on the phone on May 1, 2018 that my younger brother, Christopher, came to her apartment with Ameke Udolu and that they were moving round her apartment making comments that were highly suspicious. "My mother added that she was afraid to stay alone in her house, due to the kind of utterances she over-heard the duo making moving round her apartment.

"In the early hours of May 2, less than 24 hours after my mother's apprehensive telephone call to me, I received another call from Pius Aniefule that my mother was found dead in a pool of her blood."

According to Innocent, minutes after Aniefule's call my brother, Christopher, who started relating with me since 1999, also called to inform me of the incident, claiming that he had travelled to Mina, Niger State from where people at home broke the news to him.

Aniefule corroborated the account given by Innocent Okadigbo, saying: "I raised the issue which attracted people in the neighbourhood and later telephoned his first son Innocent

the gruesome killing of his mother.

“As people rushed to the scene, we saw Ameke Udolu coming out from one of the rooms. We saw Mrs. Roseline Okadigbo and we held him.

“We collected his phone and uncovered some incriminating telephone communications between Udolu and Christopher, the second son of the deceased.

“When we got the phone, we forced him to make a call to Christopher and put on the speakerphone, which Christopher did not know, then Christopher told Udolu to hurry down to Nteje if he had accomplished the job and wait for him there.”

Aniefule said that due to the revelation from the phone conversation between the two, a crowd started to beat up Udolu. He said that it was the intervention of the president of the community and the arrival of security operatives, who later arrested the duo to save them from being lynched.

The President-General of Nando community, Chief Ignatius Aghadinuno, said that when he got to the home of the deceased on May 2, he saw the corpse of Roseline and aggrieved villagers as well as Udolu. He said: “Because of the massive beating Udolu was given, he was taken to the hospital with the people and subsequently, invited security operatives, who later arrested Udolu.

Aghadinuno said that Christopher was later caught hiding in the home of a native doctor in Nando before he was handed over to the police.

Aghadinuno, however, appealed to the police to do thorough investigation on the matter to ensure that the perpetrators of the crime were not left off the hook. Chief Uyammadu Anaeliaku, younger brother to the deceased, told journalists that Christopher had been buried and appealed to government to assist the family by compelling him to exhume some of the bodies he buried around their compound. He said: “My late sister, Roseline, gave birth to 11 children, but only two are alive and at one time or the other, Christopher was accused of the death of his siblings, due to his fetish activities.”

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A senior police officer, who visited Nando yesterday over the development, referred him to the police headquarters in Awka for information on the matter.

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