

Drunken policeman kills Corps member in Calabar



IG, Idris

Clement James
CALABAR

A policeman, said to have been drunk, Sergeant Edu Nkanu, has reportedly shot a 32-year-old Youth Corps mem-

mother-in-law

abortive, he stormed his in-laws' house to pick his wife. But when family members did not allow him to take her, he drew his cutlass and slaughtered his mother-in-law.

"He also attacked two other members of the family, but they were rescued by their neighbours. When he was trying to escape, people around overpowered him and beat him to death".

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Mustapha Suleiman, confirmed the incident.

Suleiman added that before the police got to the village, all the people had deserted the village.

He said: "Two people died in the incident - the mother-in-law and the son-in-law (Manu)."

ber, Victoria Ekpe, to death at Ikot Ansa area of Calabar municipality in Cross River State.

Ekpe was said to have been shot at close range on the neck about 8.30pm on Sunday after the drunken policeman, Ekpe, reportedly came home from a party with a locally-made pistol in his pocket.

The victim was said to have been fiddling with her phone outside the compound after an outing with her cousin when she was shot.

Ekpe's cousin, who shared the compound with the sergeant, Elizabeth Bassey, said "Nkanu came home drunk from a party and when I asked him why he always comes home drunk, he brought out the pistol from his pocket and pointed it at me, but sensing danger, I ran but my cousin (Victoria), who never took part in our discussion was shot.

"On Sunday around past five in the evening, myself and my late cousin went out and came back by 8.30pm. She stood outside pressing her phone while I went in to change.

"By the time I came out, she was still standing there fiddling with her phone and she asked me what was going on inside the room and I told her nothing and she asked me if I sprayed perfume and I said yes.

"At that particular time, the policeman came back from an outing and our mummy was also outside. Mima asked him what he brought from his outing, he told her he did not come home with anything, he left.

"Mima and the sergeant came to the passage where I was standing. I asked him why he always gets drunk anytime he goes out. Immediately, he turned and brought out a pistol from his pocket, cocked it and pointed it at me saying, 'this is what I brought from the party' I got scared and ran. He turned the gun in the direction of my sister who was just busy with her phone, not knowing what we were discussing, and shot her in the neck".

Victoria's elder sister, Ekanem Ekpe, said

the victim was killed in front of her six-year-old daughter, Blessing, who drew her attention to the death of her mother.

With tears in her eyes, Ekanem said: "This is her daughter, Blessing, and she was standing by the mother when she was shot. I was inside when I heard the gunshot but I did not come out immediately until when I heard the daughter screaming, 'uncle you have killed my mummy' that was when I came out. Behold, my sister was lying down dead, blood was gushing out from the side of her neck. I saw him with a gun and I said, 'Nkanu, what happened, you have killed my sister.' He was just staring at the gun and at my sister; all what he could say was, 'Mima Nurse, I don't know what happened.' That was when I held him and started shouting; people came out and managed to collect the gun from him.

"I don't understand why a police officer would rather take people's lives instead of saving lives. We were told at the police station that he had killed someone like this before where he was serving in Obubra. He has a criminal file in police custody before now. Please we want justice for my sister."

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Irene Ugbo, confirmed the incident and promised that the culprit would be tried in the court of law.

She said: "The policeman has been arrested and he is in our custody. We are going to deal with him decisively because the gun that he used to shoot the deceased is not our gun. It is a locally-made pistol, so he is going to tell us where he got that gun from and who ordered him to shoot an innocent woman. There was no quarrel between them as we were told. Although we heard that he was used to threatening those people in the house but that particular day, he released the bullet. We are going to try him for murder; dismiss him and send him to prison."