

Police tortured my husband to death, widow alleges

Kenneth Ofoma
ENUGU

A mother of two, Mrs. Promise Ani, has accused the police Anti-Cultism Unit in Enugu State of torturing her 28-year-old husband, Mr. Ikechukwu Ani, to death.

Promise said her husband's death occurred after his arrest over a yet-to-be investigated report that the deceased said he would kill the policemen harassing members of the public.

The widow spoke yesterday at her home, Obeagu-Awkwunanw in Enugu South Local Government Area.

She said men of the Anti-Cultism Squad stormed their residence about 2a.m. on January 6, 2019, smashed doors and took her husband away.

Promise, who is also pregnant, said Ikechukwu, a trader at Ogbete main market, before his death, told her that he never made such statement.

According to her, even if her husband did make such statement, it was not enough for the policemen to torture him for four days without food and subsequently poisoned him.

She said: "When they released him to us, my husband told me that those police hammered two nails into his head and one in his chest. He also said that because they starved him for four days, when they gave him something like 'Sprite,' he had to drink it because he was famished. He later died in the hospital."

Promise also said that since her husband died, the

police had tried to give the family money, trying to persuade them to bury Ikechukwu but that they refused and had instead been moving the corpse from one mortuary to the other to avoid tampering with the evidence in the body.

However, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ebere Amaraizu, said even though the matter had not officially been brought to his knowledge, investigation would commence on the matter immediately.

"We can't throw it to the wind, we will find out what happened. We will check the circumstances and I can assure

you that whoever is indicted will not go unpunished. It is a very unfortunate incident, the CP doesn't condone such act," Amaraizu said.



Ani's mother (left), widow and child