Francis **Ogbuagu,**BENIN

Death Penalty Advocate, Arthur Judah Angel was on Sunday killed by assailants who also buried him in a shallow grave in the state.

The incident happened in the late Angel's home town of Ugboha, Esan South EastLocal Government, Edo State, while the assailants also burnt his house.

Recall that the Anti-Death Penalty Advocate was sentenced to death in 1986 for a crime he did not commit and was on death row for nine years. He was also a human right defender who used his foundation, Life Wire International Foundation, to fight against the use of death penalty in the country.

He travelled to over 15 countries to speak out against death penalty through his art exhibitions and drawings.

Assailants kill, bury activist, in shallow grave, burn house in Edo

When contacted, Angel's cousin, Michael Ihaza on Tuesday, confirmed the assassination of his uncle.

He said, "I cannot really say if he had problem with anyone. He won several cases over family land, but I really don't know if that brought issues between him and anyone.

"He never reported any threat to his life to me. However, his 15 year old son who reported the case to the police in Ugboha has been taken into custody for questioning, but I don't think he has a hand in his father's death.

"His son was arrested the same day he was killed. The narrative that is making the round within the police circle and in town is that the boy is also a suspect.

"My late uncle fought for humanity in his lifetime. He worked on prison reform and was a gentleman. I never heard that he had problem we with any one.

"The police say they are investigating the matter so we don't want to say anything that will jeopardise the investigation. Hopefully, the culprit will be identified and brought to justice.

When contacted, the PPRO of the Edo State Police Command, Chidi Nwabuzor, said the incident had not been reported to the police command. He urged citizens to promptly report crime to the police so that they can begin investigation on time.

When told that the matter had already been reported at the police station he said, "we have to find out where and get the DPO to acquaint the command about the case."