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Teenagers Kill Man, 39, over Intoxicant

From Aisha Wakaso in Minna, 12.01.2010

A 39 years old Patent Medicine store owner, Mallam Ikotu Alfa, was yesterday stabbed to death in Minna by two teenagers in his Medicine store for refusing to sell cough syrup to them which the teenagers intend to use as intoxicant. According to the elder brother of the deceased, Yaro Alfa, who spoke to THISDAY said the boys stabbed his brother twice when he refused to sell cough syrup to them, a drug they usually use in intoxicating themselves.

"My brother was stabbed twice by the teenagers, one on his lap and the other on his chest when he refused to sell Tutolin which most young boys in the area use as an intoxicant".

"Taking Tutolin, a cough syrup which contains codeine has become a trend for youths in the area who abuse the medication due to its codeine content".

According to the elder Brother, Hudu Abdulkareem one of the teenagers who stabbed the deceased who is presently at large, snatched a bottle of the cough mixture when the deceased refuse to sell to them and attempted to run out of the store with it when the deceased. In an attempt to retrieve the drug, a scuffle ensued which led to death of Alfa.

"When they came to buy the cough mixture, my brother refused to sell to them, so they snatched one from the counter and were about to make away with it without dropping both the money and the drug which cost N1, 050".

"My brother tried to collect the cough syrup back from the teenagers when a scuffle ensued and in the process, my brother was stabbed twice which led to his death".

Yaro said that at first he was stabbed on the thigh with a dagger adding that while he was trying to defend himself against the attackers they stabbed him again in his heart. He said that his brother was confirmed dead ten minutes later at the hospital.

The police Public Relations Officer, Richard Oguche confirmed the story stating that the makera area of Minna where the crime took place was a dangerous spot where different crimes are committed adding that the Police will soon arrest the culprits.

"The police will definitely arrest the culprit soon because his parents are cooperating with the police to ensure his arrest".

He called on people of Niger state to come out and give useful information on the culprits adding that he had been on the police list for committing murder and was protected by the public.

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