

Ex-commissioner killed

Police in Anambra State confirmed Mrs Obi-Okoli's killing and the arrest of her son as principal suspect. Obi-Okoli served in the government of Dr. Mbadinuju. She was a director of Orient Petroleum Resources, Nigeria's first privately-owned refinery sited in Otuocha in Anambra State. She also ran orphanage homes in Awka, namely "Mother Theresa Foundation" and "Tender Love Orphanage."

The suspect was said to have fled soon after the killing.

The police are investigating the motive for the killing. Sources said the suspect escaped from the house in his Mercedes Benz 500 SEL.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of CID, Mr. Muhammed Kastina, who confirmed the incident, said the suspect had been arrested. He was said to have been arrested in Lagos and would be brought to Awka soon.

He said: "I received a signal from the Divisional Police Officer of "B" Division in Awka about the incident.

When I received the signal, I mobilised my men and officers of the Homicide Department and I led them to the place. The security man at the gate allowed us in and we met one of the sons of the late woman who led us to the actual scene of the crime.

"I saw her in a stiff condition and in a pool of her own blood. So we conducted a step-by-step observation with a view to establishing the identity of the attacker. I was able to conduct some preliminary investigations that assisted me in drawing closer to the identity of the suspect.

"I picked other clues and we are still waiting for the Forensic Department of the Force Headquarters, CID Annex. On observation, I also recovered a very important clue that led us to classify the woman's son as the principal suspect," Katsina said.

He said the suspect, whose name he declined to mention, was later arrested in Lagos by detectives following an alert signal they sent out.

The widower, Chief Obi-Okoli, Chief Executive Officer of Bilante Construction Company, was unavailable. He was said to have returned to Awka on receiving the news of the incident but left for Lagos afterwards.