



## The sad end of a student leader

### ... after curious invitation to lunch

BY JOHNBOSCO  
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**H**erbert Akpo, Director of Socials of the Student Union Government, Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH), was full of life, Thursday June 7, 2012, and went to school to write his semester examinations like other students. He never had the inkling that, after his first paper, that would be his last day as a student of the university and his existence on the mother earth.

Akpo, who was a third year student of visual art and from Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State, at about noon that fateful day, was said to have received a call on his cell phone to come for lunch with the yet to be identified assassins in a restaurant within the university campus.

It was gathered that it was in the course of the lunch with the supposedly friends that he was shot in the head from behind while those behind the killing immediately jumped into the nearby bush and disappeared.

The late students leader, according to some of his colleagues, was sociable although he may appear in some situations to display some intimidating posture. The colleagues, however, claimed that but if he realized that he had offended anybody, he would apologize.

Even though there were insinuations that he may have belonged to a cult group, it was gathered that one of the criteria for belonging to the Students Union Government *exco* of the university was non-involvement in cult related activity and, after thorough screening by security agencies, he was certified cult free which then qualified him to contest for the position of Director of Socials.

A lecturer in the Department of Visual Art in CRUTECH, Mr. Justin Obong, who described the late Akpo as his nephew, also debunked any such insinuation linking the late Akpo to any cult group.

Obong said the late SUG executive member was killed in a restaurant by suspected hired killers and that, as a member of the SUG, some students may have felt offended by his actions in one way or the



\* Akpo ... during rescue operation. \* Inset: The deceased ... before the assassination

When it was confirmed by the university that Akpo was dead, his remains were taken to the UCTH. He added that only three girls who had come to write a test at CRUTECH witnessed the fatal shooting

other.

Speaking to Sunday Vanguard in his office, the Dean, Students Affairs of CRUTECH, Dr. Uduak Effiong, said information available to the university was that one of their students was shot dead between the hours of three and four on

June 7. Effiong said it was the only known death recorded which he said was carried out by unknown young men and that the university could not place the identity of the assailants which happened at a remote end of the university in a restaurant.

The Dean said that the management and staff of the university regretted the killing and that investigation was going on to unmask those behind the dastardly act.

He said that some arrest had been made but refused to mention the number.

A member of the Man'O War in the university, who was in the team that took the body of the late Akpo to University of Calabar Teaching Hospital mortuary, Mr. Godwin Egbe, said he was in his apartment when he received a call that somebody had been shot and that he should come to attend to the situation.

Egbe said, "Instantly, I woke

up and went to the scene. On getting there, the people that shot him had run away. When it happened, students rushed there to know the person that was shot and the security personnel tried to control the situation."

According to him, when it was confirmed by the university that Akpo was dead, his remains were taken to the UCTH.

He added that only three girls who had come to write a test at CRUTECH witnessed the fatal shooting.

The Man O War member said the slain student leader used to eat in front of his department and was surprised he went to the restaurant where he was killed, adding: "I have not known him to be a cultist."

The elder brother of the deceased, Mr. Fidelis Akpo, who graduated from the Institute of Management Technology, Enugu, in civil engineering, in an emotion laden voice and with the clothes and shoes of his late brother soaked with blood, confirmed his brother was shot in the head.

"The school is full of bad boys. When they called me that my brother was shot, there was no police; only the Medical Director, Dr. Ita, two other members of Man O War and myself that took him to hospital," Fidelis stated.

"I am terribly sad. I plead for justice to know what killed my brother. I shall not rest until I find out what killed my brother. May be it is only when a lecturer is killed that they (school authority) do something about security".

BY EVELYN USMAN

June 1, 2012, will forever remain indelible in the memory of the Anyinye family, in Idumu-Ugbe quarters, Ogboobi village, Onitcha Ugbo, Delta State, following the murder of a member of their family, Ifechukwu, 32.

Ifechukwu, as he fondly called, had reportedly returned from the farm that fateful day, where he did a job for one of the villagers. He was said to be going to take his bath when a group of youths arrived. The youths, as gathered, descended on Ifechukwu and started beating him, following the claim that he slept with a mad woman.

As he was being dragged out of his compound, those present begged for his release but to no avail. Unknown to them, Ifechukwu was embarking on a journey of no return. This was later confirmed fol-

## Man, 32, murdered for 'sleeping with mad woman'

lowing the discovery of the remains of the victim in the bush.

Although one of the youths alleged to have been among the assailants has been arrested by the Delta State Police Command, while others are on the run, the Anyinye family has appealed to the state Police Command and the Inspector-General of Police to carry out a thorough investigation that would not only get the accused arrested but that would also ensure that the matter was not swept under the carpet.

Spokesman for the Anyinye family, Mr. Robert Anyinye, said before his brother was

killed, he was allegedly first taken to the palace of the town's traditional ruler who allegedly ordered that the man be taken away.

Robert narrated: "The incident occurred at about 10.30 a.m. when a group of Onitcha Ugbo youths, led by their leader, stormed our brother's residence. Ifechukwu was dragged to the palace where the traditional ruler ordered the youths to take him away. The youths were eight in number. They took my brother into the bush, beat him mercilessly and inflicted machet cuts all over him, like a common criminal. He was



CP Aduba .. unable to confirm incident

also forced to drink a concoction which nobody, as I speak, can tell what it was. "While they were torturing my brother, one of our kinsmen who was returning from the farm sighted them and pleaded on my brother's behalf. But they would not listen. Rather, they warned him to leave the scene in his own interest"

At this juncture, he kept mute and shook his head intermittently. After a while, he continued: "Our kinsman rushed to inform us consequent upon which we mobilised some youths with the hope of rescuing my brother. But when we got to the spot, we met him naked, with blood all over him.

The man that witnessed it all, thereafter, rushed to the Obi's palace, where he met him discussing with the youths. He told the Obi he was

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there to find out if indeed he sent the boys to kill Ifechukwude. But the Obi allegedly told him to calm down, asking if he did not know that my brother was a criminal."

The murder of the Ifechukwude reportedly sparked off a protest by youths from his quarters who, as gathered, removed the corpse from the bush and dumped it in the apartment of one of the alleged assailants.

The youths, according to Roberts, "also stormed the palace demanding that his killers be released to them

# Man, 32, murdered for 'sleeping with mad woman'

and threatened to set the palace ablaze if their demand was not met. But the traditional ruler called the police who came and arrested one of the youths".

A source close to the palace told *Sunday Vanguard* that their traditional ruler never sent anyone to carry out the dastardly act. The source clarified that the traditional ruler

only instructed the youths to take the deceased to the police station, adding: "Our Obi was even shocked when news of the death of Ifechukwude reached him. In fact, he was the one that called in the police and released one of the suspects to them".

When the Delta State Commissioner of Police, Mr Ikechukwu Aduba, was

reached, he told *Sunday Vanguard* on phone that he was not at the Command and could as such not give details. But he assured he would call back.

However, a source at the Command confirmed the arrest of one of the alleged killers, informing that effort was on to apprehend other fleeing suspects. It was also

gathered the traditional ruler would be invited for questioning, as part of the investigation.

The Idumu-Ugbe quarters in particular and the entire Onitcha Ugbo are currently anxious for the police next line of investigation.

Although some of them confirmed the allegation leveled against the deceased, they wondered why death should be the penalty. The criminal allegation of rape, according to them, could have been handled appropriately by security agencies.