

My missing husband was killed in Police cell, widow alleges

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***Appeals to FG, IGP to fish out perpetrators**

By Evelyn Usman

The 28-year-old mother of one, Ebere Okonkwo, who raised the alarm over the disappearance of her husband, Chidubuem Okonkwo, from the custody of the Police in Anambra State, last week, has disclosed that he was allegedly killed inside the cell of the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department, Awka.

She told Vanguard that her late husband who was a member of the Tricycle Owners Association of Nigeria, TOAN Awka branch, Anambra State, was arrested at Unizik junction park, on March 15, 2022, over an undisclosed offence.

Thereafter, she said he was paraded by the Commissioner of Police, Anambra State Police Command, CP Echen Echen, at the Command Headquarters Awka, without any explanation of his offence, by the command.

Apprehension, according to her, set in, as she and her in-laws were deprived of reaching her 48-year-old husband after the parade until they were informed recently that he was allegedly killed in the cell.

Lamenting, she said: “ We were told he was tortured to death in the cell. Who paid the police to kill him? What offence could he have committed that warranted his being killed extrajudicially without trial? Why didn’t they charge him to court?”, she asked rhetorically.

Recalling her last moment with him, the distraught widow said, “ Dubem left the house on March 15, 2022, bidding my daughter and I goodbye, unknown to me he was bidding us final farewell.

“Later that day, I received a call from one of his friends that some policemen stormed the motor park and arrested some people, including my husband. When I asked what his offence was, he said the Police told them they would know when they got to the station. I was a little bit at peace since he was not kidnapped. I was also not disturbed because I knew he had never been involved in any crime.