



Man stabs bosom friend to death in Onitsha

• He killed him to inherit his 4matic Benz, household properties - deceased's elder brother

By Nwabueze Okonkwo

ONITSHA - Homicide detectives attached to Criminal Investigations Department, CID, Anambra state Police Command have commenced investigations into the gruesome murder of a 31-year old man, Ejike Godwin Edozieuno by his bosom friend simply identified as Raphael.

Raphael, a native of Ezioiwelle community in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra state is currently in police custody at the state CID, Awka, while the body of Ejike, a native of Isikakwu Aturia village, Omor in Ayamelum Local Government Area also of Anambra state, has been deposited at Apex Medical Centre morgue, Nkwelle-Ezunaka in Oyi Local Government Area of the state.

According to information gathered from a family source, the suspect who was residing with the deceased in the same flat rented by the deceased, stabbed his friend to death at about 11 p.m. on Saturday, October 1, over claim that he did not wash the plate with which he ate and that Ejike was owing him an unspecified amount of money.

The source stated that after stabbing him he wrapped him with a blanket and pushed him under the bed. But the cries of dying Ejike before his last breath attracted the attention of other tenants in the building who all rushed out to find out who was shouting.

It was further gathered that the suspect, in a bid to conceal the dastardly act, told the tenants that there was nothing wrong inside the flat adding that the noise they heard was not from the flat.

Not convinced by his explanation, it was further gathered that the tenants kept vigil till the morning when they forced the suspect to open the door for searching and discovered the lifeless body of Ejike

wrapped with a blanket under the bed.

The landlord of the house who was simply identified as Chidubem then asked the tenants to keep an eye on the suspect while he rushed to the 33 police station to lodge a report.

It was also gathered that while waiting for the landlord to come with the police, the suspect allegedly suggested to the tenants to assist him put the corpse inside

away and dump it in such a way it would look as if he was murdered by some armed robbers.

He further suggested to the tenants that having done that, they would then dispose off the vehicle and share the proceeds but tenants refused to oblige him until the arrival of landlord the police whisked him away to the station where he detained briefly before being transferred to the state CID for further

investigations.

The source further hinted that at the 33-police station where he was initially taken to after his arrest, Raphael allegedly wrote in his statement to the police that late Ejike did not wash plate after eating and that he was owing him some amount of money.

But when the police asked Raphael to produce a documentary evidence to prove that Ejike was owing him, he could not

tears, the late Ejike's elder brother Izuchukwu Edozieuno told newsmen in an interview that the suspect intentionally killed Ejike in order to take possession of his 4matic Mercedes Benz and his household property which were used to furnish and decorate the apartment rented by Ejike and accommodated Raphael as a friend.

According to Izuchukwu, "my deceased younger brother, Ejike started his journey to greatness sometime in 2019 when he traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia shortly after his apprenticeship in electronics trading and was settled by his master, Ezeani Electronics based in Onitsha.

"Ejike returned to Nigeria from Indonesia on December 16, 2021 for the burial ceremony of our late father, Eduno Anikpe which took place on January 7, this year.

"As he no longer wanted to remain in Indonesia, Ejike relocated to Onitsha after the burial ceremonies and cohabited with our sister, Ogoegbunam Eduno who is a hair dresser.

"Before then, Raphael, the suspected murderer usually visited our sister's hair dressing salon to do his hair and after some time, our sister introduced Ejike to Raphael and they became friends.

"The friendship between my brother, Ejike, now late and his suspected killer, Raphael blossomed until Ejike started making plans to travel to Brazil to continue with his electronics supply business.

"Before he eventually traveled to Brazil Raphael advised him to rent a flat in Onitsha and furnish it so that any time he returned to Nigeria, he would have a place to stay and Ejike bought the idea rented a flat and furnished it before leaving for Brazil.

While leaving for Brazil, Ejike left Raphael in the rented apartment to look after the house hold property and also to make use of the 4matic Benz, pending when he would return to Nigeria.

"Ejike eventually left for Brazil but his papers were not complete and he returned to Onitsha to process his papers before going back to Brazil or a business trip and it was at this point that Raphael stabbed him to death."

The landlord of the house who simply identified himself as Chidubem, who spoke to newsmen on phone on Thursday morning, described the incident as very unfortunate but declined further comments, as the case was already being investigated by the police.

The traditional ruler of Ezioiwelle Igwe Michael Okonkwo-Etusi told newsmen at his palace on Tuesday that he heard about the incident the previous day, speculations that had been rampant efforts to freedom for and sweet under the Igwe

palace had just incident

On the as a suspect, he making secure the suspect the matter carpet, Okonkwo-Etusi attributed such allegation to handiwork of some opponents.

According to the monarch, "admittedly, the suspect is from the same kindred with me but that will not make me to go to the extent of trying to sweep this case under the carpet. Those rumour mongers should have equally said that I was the one who pushed Raphael into the crime.

"If I may ask, of what benefit will it be for me to sweep such a heinous crime under the carpet? Like I earlier said, I just heard about this incident yesterday and the parents of the suspect who though are my relations, have not even stepped their feet into this palace to brief me about this case officially, let alone going to the police to sweep it under the carpet. Even the young man in question, Raphael, I saw him last many years ago".

The state Police Public Relations Office PPRO, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga who confirmed the incident to newsmen on phone, said the suspect was in police custody, adding the



• Suspect



• Late Ejike