

# Family accuses man of murdering his lover in her apartment

By Evelyn Usman

Controversy is presently trailing the death of a 32-year-old business woman, Uwakfon Akpan, in her apartment at 48 Nwaniba, Uyo, the Akwa-Ibom State capital, following allegation by her family that she was murdered by her live-in-lover.

Her lover, Godwin Essang, who was subsequently arrested by the Police has denied the allegation, maintaining that she died in her sleep.

But family members have called for discreet investigation, as they alleged that Uwakfon could have been strangled to death, as her neck was discovered to have been broken. They also stated that there were visible marks of violence on her chest and her lover's neck, suggesting there could have been a fight that led to her being strangled.

Again, the bereaved family stated that some hard currency brought in the previous night by its daughter, disappeared all of a sudden.

The incident, as gathered, occurred on the very day the deceased was expecting her 13-year-old daughter, who had been living in Lagos with her aunt. Her relatives further posited that the argument that degenerated to her alleged murder, could not have been unconnected with the return of her daughter.

Speaking with Crime Guard, an aunt to late Uwakfon, Mrs Comfort Akpan, who is yet to come to terms with the rude shock of her demise, said there was more to her death than met the eyes.

Narrating how news of Uwakfon's death reached her, Mrs Akpan, who is a teacher, said, "Uwakfon was my niece. She had a daughter who lived with my sister until she (sister) died in 2018. After my sister's death, it was decided that Uwakfon's daughter should come live with me in Lagos.

"She has been living with me for four years, until I received a call from Uwakfon last month, saying she would want me to release her daughter to her because she had not set eyes on her for long.

"She called again this month (September) when school resumed, insisting on her daughter coming to continue her secondary school education in her place in Akwa-Ibom State. I could not object".

## Botched reunion

Back in Akwa-Ibom, Uwakfon looked forward to receiving her daughter. Part of the preparation for her return as gathered, included buying some clothes and the choice of school, where she would continue her Junior Secondary School 3 education.

Unfortunately, she never lived to see her expectations come through, following news of her death one hour before her daughter was to take off from a motor park in Yaba area of Lagos.

Continuing, devastated Mrs Akpan said, "She told me she would send a driver to come pick her daughter. But because of the distance from my place in Amuwo-Odofin, to the park at Ojuelegba, her daughter could not meet up with that plan.

"She had to organize for another driver that would come pick her up from home. But the driver said he did not know my place. We had to resort to her sleeping in our church in Surulere, from where the driver would pick her. Her daughter left the house at about 6pm on Monday for the church.

"The next day, being Tuesday, I was inside the bathroom, preparing for work, when my



(Deceased's lover)



phone rang. It was my niece's number. I picked the call, concluding she called to know if her daughter had left. But I heard a male voice from the other end crying and at the same

time, telling me to stop the driver from bringing the girl. The person immediately hung up."

Confused, she dialed the number and demanded to know who the caller was and why he instructed that the driver should not bring the teenager.

In an emotional laden tone, Mrs Akpan continued, "The caller introduced himself as Godwin. He dropped the bomb shell that my niece was dead. With a promise to call back, he hung up again. I was confused because when

## The allegations

Meanwhile, Uwakfon's lover told the Police that he found her dead. He further disclosed that she returned from church the previous night complaining of body and stomach aches.

But one another relative to the deceased, Comrade Levite Akpan, said information reaching his family indicated that the deceased had a yet to be specified amount of dollars at home.

He alleged that "her boy friend collected I as soon as she was murdered. We were told that he ran away from the house and returned to pack his things, only to be held by the landlord and tenants, until the arrival of policemen.

We were also told that he told his brother to keep the hard currency for him as the Police were leading him out of the house."

Corroborating his claim, the elder brother to the deceased, Sunday Akpan, who expressed shock at the incident, said her late sister's lover broke the news of

her death to him.

He said, "We do not believe his claim that she died in her sleep because my sister had one time complained to our elder sister that her boyfriend was a brute. We suspect they could have been fighting when he strangled her. This is because there were marks of violence on her chest and neck, suggestive of strangulation. There were also marks of violence on her lover's neck."

Meanwhile, detectives at the State Criminal Investigation have begun investigation into the incident. Police sources confirmed there marks on the deceased but did not state categorically if they were marks of violence. Sources could also not state if the cause of death, saying autopsy results were yet to be out.

Sources said, "We can't state whether it was a case of murder or not, as investigation is still ongoing".