

By Kingsley Omonobi & Evelyn Usman

**L**AGOS—Three naval personnel and a female civilian have been arrested over the death of a civilian staff of the Ministry of Defence, Ifeanyin Richard, in Navy Town, Ojo, Lagos.

This came as Naval authorities said investigation had begun to unravel the circumstances surrounding Richard's death, threatening to deal with anyone found culpable.

Richard's lifeless body was reportedly found in his office in the Laboratory Department of the Nigerian Navy Reference Hospital, NNRH, Ojo, on March 31, 2024.

He was said to have died four days after he was beaten by some Naval personnel.

Explaining what happened in a video that went viral on social media, a woman, suspected to be a relation of the deceased, said: "On March 26, 2024, Richard did not come back home. His sister he was living with was worried, unknown to them that Richard was being beaten and brutalised for seven hours. He was beaten from 8p.m of March 26 to 1 a.m. of March 27, 2024.

"What was his crime? Richard loved taking care of dogs. One of his bosses was not around and left the dog in Richard's care. As usual, Richard went to take care of those dogs. There was a particular lady living in that compound, who always bullied Richard, calling him dog boy. But on that day, he decided to stand up for himself and they had an altercation.

"The lady tried to slap him and in defending himself, he had the upper hand but he did not touch this lady, she got pinned to the floor by Richard and he asked her to apologise to him before he would let her go.

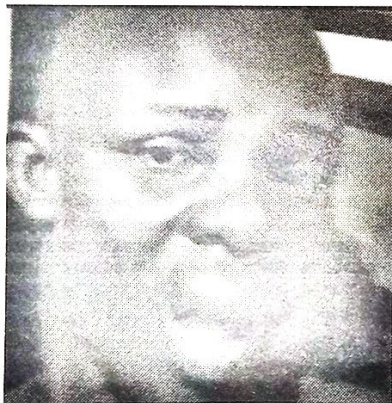
"Realising she has wronged him, she apologised to Richard and he let her go. He never laid his hand on this lady.

"This lady came back with five naval staff. Without listening to Richard's side of the story, four of them beat him to the extent that Richard's bone was swollen. Unfortunately, on Easter Sunday, the family got a call that Richard had



**EID-EL-FITR CELEBRATION:** Commander, Operation Safe Haven and General Officer Commanding, 3 Division, Nigerian Army, Maj.-Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar (left) serving food to the personnel of the Operation Safe Haven during the Eid-el-Fitr celebration in honour of the troops in Jos, yesterday. Photo: NAN.

## Murder of civilian: Navy arrests 3 personnel, civilian



Late Ifeanyin Richard.

death, adding that anyone found wanting would be prosecuted accordingly.

Expressing the service's sadness over Richard's demise, Adams-Aliu said: "The Nigerian Navy (NN) is deeply saddened by the demise of Mr. Richard Onumaegbu and the circumstances surrounding his

died.

"To show you how much Richard loved his job, he still went to work with the bruises on him and he died at work. His body was discovered to be swollen with bruises he sustained from being beaten for seven hours."

However, the Navy in a statement by the Director of Information, Commodore Aiwuyor Adams-Aliu, said all necessary measures were being taken to unravel the cause of Richard's

death. The NN wishes to inform the general public that the deceased was an integral part of the NN family as a civilian staff of the Ministry of Defence attached to the Laboratory Department of the Nigerian Navy Reference Hospital, NNRH, Ojo, Lagos since 2009 and he served meritoriously.

"On March 31, 2024, he was found lifeless in his office at NNRH. A preliminary investigation revealed that four days

earlier, on March 26, 2024, the deceased was involved in an altercation with a civilian lady and some NN personnel in Navy Town barracks.

"Consequently, all suspected personnel and the civilian lady involved in the previous altercation were identified and are currently under close custody. The NN has

facilitated the movement of the deceased's body to a reputable government hospital in Lagos based on the request of the family for an autopsy.

"The NN further wishes to assure his family and general public that all necessary measures are being taken to unravel the cause of death and any person found culpable would be prosecuted according to extant laws."

### CLASSIFIED

#### CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

I, ORDIAH HENRY, WISH TO STATE THAT MY DATE OF BIRTH WAS WRONGLY ENTERED IN MY WAEC CERTIFICATE AS MARCH 06 1995 INSTEAD OF MARCH 06 1996. MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS MARCH 06 1996. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

**ADVERT  
SPACE  
FOR  
SALE**

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to declare that We, MR ARIEGBROMAH JOSEPH ORITSEGBUBEMI and MRS ARIEGBROMAH EJIROGHENE JACINTA who got married on April 17th, 2010, are the biological parents of our children. Names and date of birth stated below