

## **Transcript of interview with Charlie Lasisi's family conducted in mid-2013**

### **Charlie Lasisi**

#### TRANSLATION – Tok Pisin to English

What's unsettling for us is the information surrounding my son's death.  
We don't know why they killed him.  
The other thing is they haven't told us where his body is.

NFA<sup>1</sup> is responsible for his life. He is their employee and they are supposed to talk to RD<sup>2</sup> about why he is missing from the boat.

There is an eyewitness.

We are not very happy. We are sitting idle. We are not getting enough information.

The reports are on paper, the police report from their investigations.

That's why we are telling them [NFA] (fisheries department) why they are not talking to RD to find out more.

When they came to interview us. They told us that our son had personal problems.

But we I told him, my son is a young man. He is not married. He is 26 years old.  
He is not married and does not have kids.

But when the police came to carry out their investigations they told us he had problems with his wife and children.

I told them, who told you this? Ask around to find out if he was married.

I told the police if they don't believe me they should go to my village and ask my relatives, my parents if my son is married; if he has kids.

When they came to investigate us, I told them we are the wrong people you're investigating.

We are not the ones who killed him. It's between RD [Tuna] and its employees. So go and ask RD Tuna. Why are you talking to us when you should be talking to RD [Tuna]. We cant tell you anything.

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<sup>1</sup> National Fisheries Authority, Papua New Guinea: <http://www.fisheries.gov.pg>

<sup>2</sup> RD Tuna: [http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/RD\\_Tuna](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/RD_Tuna)

We just want the results of the killing.

They put together the report and came to give us the files. What are we suppose to do with it? But it doesn't mention anything - the cause of his death, there is nothing.

When the court case was on in Madang, we asked NFA if we could go, but they said no, we were not allowed come here. So we stayed back.

Communicating with NFA is a problem. I call them form my mobile but I don't speak to the managing director. I only talk to their investigators, police and other people involved in the case.

There is no word of my sons death. We are not hearing any thing about [my] son.

**QUESTION: What was the response from them when you asked them why they were coming to investigate you two?**

When they come to investigate, they say he committed suicide because of problems with his wife and children. And they said he fights with me.

My wife and kids can tell you, when he comes he stays with the pastor at Liga at the bible school. He stays there, not with us, He comes to see us when he wants something. We buy it and give it to him and he takes it with him back to Liga.

The guys at NFA has have done so much to us.

**QUESTION: How many years has it been now?**

This is the fourth year, 2010 to 2013.

**QUESTION – tell us about you wanting to attend the hearing and was refused.**

When his case was on ..We asked the CID [Council for International Development] to ask NFA to pay for us to go to the Court hearing in Madang, but they said we were not allowed to attend.

**QUESTION: How about RD Tuna?**

RD tuna has said nothing to me. There is no word. It's between NFA and RD tuna. We don't know anything. Like I said, we are just waiting to hear something since our son died. We haven't heard anything.

For example, they came to get blood samples for a DNA test. They sent blood and bones away to Port Moresby. They sent the bones away but must have left the blood too long or something and the samples went damaged so they came back a second time.

Now they want to come back a third time. But my younger son said no. They suppose to know what they are doing.

At least if they came back and said 'mum and dad' this is what has happened and so forth. But they never tell us anything when they come. I know they must be conspiring amongst themselves to keep information from us. So me and my wife are just wondering what's happening.

Now they have taken the new blood samples to Australia, and migration has not allowed it as there are no proper documents for the samples to be sent.

They want to come a third time to take blood samples but I said no. We won't do it again. There are a lot of things we are not happy with. I have written so many letters to them and I have had no response .

There is a new CID leading the investigation. He's replacing the old one that came before. So we had to send to the copies of the letters sent to him. There is still no word from him yet.

I called them in Port Moresby and spoke to someone at the office. He asked me what I wanted. I told them 'don't you know I have a problem with my son. You don't ask me that question. If I call, you must try to help me, don't ask me stupid questions. I don't want anything, I just want to know what happened to my son.

I told him you're talking like that because you have never been in such a situation.

## FILE 00081:

when you are missing a child in your family, if someone has killed him you would be upset, a part of your family is missing.

I told them off. I said I don't want to hear all this talk. One problem is if they communicated well with me things would be alright. I am the one that calls them. They don't call me. I call them.

I mean, they have access to phones to ring.

One thing we are not satisfied with is - The people that killed my son, their passports were taken from them in Port Moresby. Are they still in the county or have left, I wonder.

The court knows and are still to decide. If my son was killed on the boat. What is their punishment?

The other thing I am not happy with is - if they come to operate their business in PNG they must obey the laws of Papua new Guinea, there are rules.

Even if we go to their county we will obey their laws.

But why are they coming to my country and doing this things to us.

There are a lot of things my wife and I are not happy with. I don't know if these people are still in the county or gone.

**QUESTION: Do you think about your son? When you do, how do you feel?**

When I see his photo in the house.....(pause) when I see his photos I think of him. NFA is suppose to tell us why he was killed.

What we would really like, is for NFA is to tell us is why was he killed.

I wouldn't be angry for nothing, over all this information, just give us the right information.

If the eye witness is there, then why are we losing the court cases?

**QUESTION: Do you have any contact wit the eye witness?**

I don't have any, but my daughter does keep in contact.

I guess they are scared to tell us information.

**QUESTION: Do you think they are trying to cover up something?**

The other thing is: If our son did something wrong to deserve this, they should tell us.

But since the incident, they haven't told us anything, if he is to blame for his own death or not.

But we are not told anything.

**QUESTION: 00082 (the mother)**

I just want to say, when my son died, It broke our hearts.

And one thing is when he died, we haven't seen his body, his remains. They never brought the remains to us so we could give him a proper burial so we know that our son is really dead. They haven't told us anything, where his body, his remains are.

They have been coming here for blood samples for DNA testing to identify if a body found buried on an island is our son or not.

When we're at home, when we're on our own, we think of our son and worry about him.

We only want to know why our son died and how he died.

**QUESTION: You as the mother, how did you feel about the investigators wanting DNA samples?**

I didn't want to give my blood sample,

Father: We want to identify the bones they found.

But I had to, so we would know if the bones they found were our son's. Because I want them to bring my son's remains home so we can bury him properly.

But with the way they are going, we don't have any trust left in them if they are doing their work right or lying to us.

**QUESTION: is he the first or second born?**

He is the third born.

**Question: What was his sibling's reaction when these investigators come around?**

Mum: The one after him gets really angry. He wants to take revenge when the investigators come to talk to us about his death.

Dad: he's angry that they don't tell us about the circumstances surrounding his death.

Mum: He's still angry, when his brother died, he gets angry over everything. And when he sees the Chinese, he gets really angry.

Dad: The Chinese - he just gets angry. When he's drunk he tries to attack them after this incident.

Dad: He says if NFA came and sat with us and told us exactly what happened, then it would be good, and we would know what happened.

But that's not the case; we don't know anything that's why we are not happy. The whole family hasn't heard anything.

RECORDING 00083:

The boy, his dad is my uncle, he's my cousin. That's why when this incident happened, they just left the other family so they wouldn't have any issues. They said because he is your cousin and he would be happy with you.

I just rang the policeman in Port Moresby again and asked about the second blood samples.

**And he told me, migration department in Australia has held back those samples, and that I would be contacted for someone to come over to get mouth swabs.**

And it would be sent to Brisbane. I asked him what happened to the other samples. He said migration has confiscated the samples. I told him, don't you know how to do proper paper work to send those samples to another country?

We think of him when we see the work he did for us before leaving.

Before he left he fixed our tank and said, we would have good water from then on.

One thing I am not happy with NFA is that.....the problem is that we don't have the money to pay for a lawyer. We have a lawyer.

What they told me was that, with the blood samples they took, they would cross check against the bones they found. Then they could take RD Tuna to court with the evidence.

I said that's the first time I'm hearing you say this. You never said something like this to me. I don't know why you are doing this things..

**This is not the first incident, the first incident was someone from Meci. He was killed on a ship too. I asked the family if they received any compensation and they said no.**

And I thought, does RD Tuna insure the lives of its workers. I mean does NFA insure the lives of its workers.?

Why is there no payment? So when he died there was nothing was done about it.

They told us you would be coming....

A lot of boys in Madang Town knew our son, I think they played football together.

They called us and asked us if they could go and burn the factory.

But I said no, it's already in the hands of the law. We might just create another problem.

They said, we went to school with your son in Keviang, we are wondering why this has happened. I told them my wife and I are wondering the same. Why he was killed.

The eyewitness has not told us much either, where he was when he saw our son killed. They were mates.

**QUESTION: Does he keep in contact with your daughter?**

I don't know, my daughter doesn't tell me anything.

That boy is half new Ireland and Sepik, his village is close to Sir Julius Chan's village;

**QUESTION: If you've had enough, just say it and we can stop.**

Well, my last option is if I had enough money I would take this people to court. I would take NFA and RD Tuna to court. That's my last option.

If I had money to pay for the lawyer.

I told them, he's not an animal, he's a human being, how could they just leave the case like that.

If NFA doesn't want to help me, I would take them both NFA and RD to court.

My son's uncles, my wife's brothers have thought about blocking off the college in frustration.

To close the college, that's an option we've thought about.

Because we are not happy that NFA has not helped us.

Ignoring us just like that...

If it goes on for another year, it might get thinking about doing some of these things

They think we are not capable of doing something like that.  
We fight over land, over man, all kinds of things,

Everyone here is asking what's happening with the case, what can we do? What's the next step?

I don't know, I don't want to put us into trouble.

Its best we leave it to the govt. for NFA to deal with it.

In 2011, we did a feast to mark his death, put up the mourning house. I killed 6 pigs. NFA contributed 6 thousand kina. Everyone came, this place was full of people.

I remember the dates, March 29. And that's when I did the feast and put up the mourning house.

**QUESTION: Why did NFA give you the 6 thousand?**

They said it was to help me to do the mourning feast. So they helped with 5 thousand.

The NGO guys, wanted our story as well. But I said we could talk but what's the solution.

If I had some good information, I would give the NGO, but I didn't have helpful information from NFA

**Recording 00084:**

How could I give them information when I wasn't getting any information from NFA.

For you two coming, I still don't have any useful information to give you. NFA has not told me anything.

They brought a huge book to me, I told them, I am not the judge, why are you bringing this to me.

I threw the book.

This book is not the life of my son, I could burn this book, I just want to know what happened to my son.

I don't want you to come and give me papers. What would I do with these papers?

It would have been better if there was helpful information.

The government of PNG must punish these people who killed my son. Don't be lenient.

But Now I don't know,  
If I called them now, I will put them on speaker and who can hear the bullshit they say to me.



**QUESTION: We heard the case went cold, and we thought NFA or someone is covering up, that's why we wanted to come to you and talk to you.**

No information from them till now,

You see the blood samples they've come to get from us.  
They haven't done anything with it. They've had those samples for a while.

They are saying it cost a lot of money about 40 thousand kina for NFA investigators travel to Australia to test this samples.

Now you can see NFA has big projects running in the country, yet they cant afford that lousy 40 thousand

My son's life is far worth more than any project they are doing.

I told them my son is no longer here with me.

They are playing dirty games with us. We know. There is not enough information from them to give us a peace of mind.

IF there was some new information, it would make his mum a satisfied.

