

found dead	number	name	country of origin	cause of death	source
9/08/04	1	Chukwuemeka Onyegbule	Nigeria	suicide, found hanged Forest prison (Bruxelles) in misterious circumstances	INDbe/Emekalst

## 23 YEAR OLD NIGERIAN FOUND HUNG ON DAY OF HIS CONFINEMENT



FOREST Very silently a drama has unfolded in the prison Forest at the beginning of this week. A detainee was found dead, hung in his cell. Officially no word has been uttered on this scandal, so far. Justice states, it was suicide. Yet, outside prison walls people demand that no hasty judgements should be concluded.

Charles Chukwuemeka Onyegbule must have seen quite a lot in his lifetime: Therefore it can hardly be understood, why he should have wanted to put an end to his life at a moment, when little was at stake. The Nigerian had for the fourth time tried to legalize his abode in Belgium. The young man counted but 23 years. In the afternoon he had been arrested, according to eye witnesses, he was "very calm on his arrival". The Nigerian embassy demanded an autopsy from Belgium's authorities.

He had asked for asylum for three times, all with negative results. The fourth attempt was filed in on July 22nd, 2004, which is three weeks ago, and was still pending.

Last Monday (August 9, 2004) the young man was picked up in town without identification papers was imprisoned. He arrived there in the afternoon, in the Avenue Ducpétiaux. Here he was found dead on the evening of the same day, by 9.30 p.m.

The Nigerian embassy in Belgium and a Nigerian organisation in Belgium, obstructed any intervention from their side, without having being allowed to identify the dead.

It is said, that the embassy demanded from the state prosecutor in Brussels an autopsy of the remains and did not hastily want to approve the explanation of an alleged suicidal death.

Gilbert Dupont © La Dernière Heure 2004

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information from UNITED for Intercultural Action

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