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Police confirm death of 26-year-old in Anambra RRS custody

ASSISTANT Inspector-General of Police in charge of Zone 13, Mr. Godwin Iguh-Eze, has ordered an investigation into the controversial death of a 26-year-old bricklayer, Ndudi Mmadudilim, who allegedly died while in police custody under the Rapid Response Squad, RRS, in Anambra State.

The directive followed an inspection visit by the AIG to the RRS facility in Awkuzu, where he reportedly confronted officers over the circumstances surrounding Mmadudilim's arrest, detention, and eventual death, which allegedly remained undisclosed to his family for nearly two years.

Mmadudilim, an indigene of Ozubulu in Ekwusigbo Local Council of Anambra State, was allegedly rearrested by operatives of the RRS in 2024 shortly after securing bail in a criminal case.

Since then, his family had repeatedly demanded information about his whereabouts, suspecting unlawful detention and possible disappearance.

The case took a new turn on Thursday when the AIG, acting on the directive of the Inspector-General of Police, Olantuji Disu, visited the facility and ordered the Commissioner of Police in Anambra State, Ikioye Orutugu, to investigate both the immediate and remote causes of

Mmadudilim's death.

Police officers initially denied knowledge of the case. However, after the AIG ordered a comprehensive review of all case files from 2024 to date, personnel reportedly admitted that the suspect had died in custody about two years ago.

The revelation reportedly angered the AIG, who questioned why the family had never been informed despite the police possessing the deceased's case file and residential details.

"Somebody died in 2024, and you never notified the family. You have the case file, you have the address, and you even conducted an inquest without the family present. The family is not aware of the whereabouts of the corpse. There should be more to it than what you are saying now," Iguh-Eze reportedly told the officers during the visit.

He warned that the matter would not be swept under the carpet, emphasising that the Inspector-General of Police had shown personal interest in the case and was awaiting a detailed report in Abuja.

The AIG also directed the Commissioner of Police to sanitise the RRS facility, which he described as notorious for complaints bordering on intimidation, unlawful detention, denial of bail, physical assault of suspects, and other forms of unprofessional conduct.

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