

Family of killed trader petitions Okiro

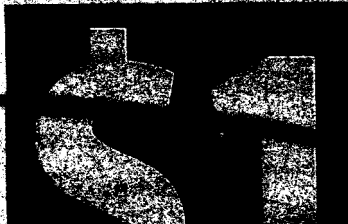
FRIDAY OLOKOR and
LUKKIY ABAWURU

FAMILY of late Chinedu Nwaka, who was allegedly shot dead by a mobile policeman during a recent clash by two factions of the Balogun Business Association (BBA), has urged the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro and President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua

to ensure that those behind his death do not escape justice.

The traders have also raised alarm that their president

Continues on page 6



Family of killed trader

court."

The deceased, according to him, turned down the request on account of his closeness to the president of the association, Prince Tony Akanegbu with whom Okey Ezeibe had long been engaged in proceedings in court.

He was also said to have been warned on January 30, 2008 by an anonymous phone call not to be in his shop the next day since he was "target of attack."

While claiming that the policemen were brought to the market by Mr. Okey Ezeibe, the petitioner said the family has been devastated since the death of Ikechukwu.

"Chinedu's death has created a vacuum in the family. Justice must be done. The Inspector-General of Police should ensure that the case is not swept under the carpet," he stated.

A release signed by the publicity secretary of BBA, Mr. Ikechukwu Cosmas Ikene and made available to *Daily Champion*, stated that the need for Yar'Adua's intervention became necessary to restore peace in the market.

He alleged that Akanegbu

allegedly sustained deep matchet cuts when some thugs said to be loyal to another faction invaded the market.

Ikene alleged that the thugs looted shops and wounded several persons during the raid.

He gave the names of some of those seriously wounded as Peter Okwuchi, Celestine Okafor and Ubaika Ibe.

The publicity secretary who is also the assistant secretary, said that lawyer to the detained Akanegbu has since petitioned the police boss over the attack and raid of the market.

It would be recalled that heavy fightings broke into the market last week between loyalists of pioneer chairman of the market, Chief Okey Ezeibe and those of Akanegbu over the leadership of the market.

On several occasions, the two factions have accused each other of corruption, high handedness and indiscipline.

While supporters of Ezeibe alleged that they were ready for election to elect a replacement, Akanegbu's loyalists insist that he is the authentic and elected leader of the market.