

Police kill woman at checkpoint to stop escaping driver

By JUSTIN OZUZU, Nnewi

AN overzealous police officer in Ichi, Ekwusigbo local government area of Anambra state yesterday sent a woman to her early grave when the bus driver refused to heed to instructions of the security operatives. The woman, identified as Esther from Oba in Idemili South local government area, allegedly died as a result of gun shot wounds.

According to *Sunday Champion* investigation, the driver of the vehicle with registration number XY346ENU, who refused to disclose his name to journalists said police stopped other vehicles at a checkpoint on Ichi- Nnewi old road from Oba axis but instead of pulling behind other vehicles parked by the police at the check point as it was the last Saturday of the month when clean-up exercise was going on around 8: am, the driver decided to take the risk and sped up. One of the policemen to stop the vehicle allegedly fired a shot at the Toyota bus and killed the woman sitting at the back.

Asked whether the driver was carrying contraband goods that warranted him to gamble with the lives of innocent citizens, the source said she was not aware, only that the driver refused to stop like other drivers when the policemen asked him to do so

She was immediately rushed to the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi where doctors and nurses battled to save her life but to no avail.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPROA), Awka, Mr Emeka Chukwuemeka Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) confirmed the incident, describing it as an accidental discharge. He said that the officer who fired the shot has been arrested and would be treid after investigation.