

CITY NEWS

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Law firm protests alleged murder of petrol hawker

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A law firm, A.A Gulak & Co, has petitioned the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), over an alleged extra-judicial killing of one Usman Alhaji Fatar, a petrol hawker, by an environmental task force in Abuja.

In the petition dated April 28, 2015 and made available to *City News*, the firm alleged that men of the Abuja Environmental

Protection Board (AEPB) in company of some naval officers stabbed the deceased on the stomach.

According to the petition, the incident happened on April 18 at about 6:30 p.m. when men of AEPB on routine operation chased petrol hawkers on Nnamdi Azikiwe road by Area One, Abuja.

The petition claimed that the deceased, who was among the hawkers being chased, was stabbed twice on the arm and jaw.

"The Naval officer in company

of the AEPB officials followed the deceased to a point near a car wash behind a filling station on the road, where he was allegedly stabbed which resulted into his death as confirmed by doctors at a nearest hospital, where he was rushed to," the petition claimed.

The law firm, in the petition signed by one M.S Dukas, Esq, requested the commission to investigate the alleged extra-judicial killing of innocent citizens by the law enforcement agents with the aim of bringing the culprits to book in order to serve as deterrent to others.

But when contacted yesterday, AEPB's head of Information, Barrister Joe Okaro, said the board is not aware of such incident, saying he would have to confirm before commenting on the issue.

Alhaji Sanni, AEPB's Head of Operation, also denied knowledge of the incident when contacted on phone yesterday.

"I am the head of operation and I do not go out with the team except there are some issues to handled. On that day, the report I received was that one of the field officers was attacked and stabbed

in the stomach while trying to remove an orange hawker, who displayed his products on the road.

"I also got a report that our van was stoned by hawkers and our boys had to jump into the vehicles and run back to the office," he explained.

He said he never received any report on the killing of any hawker along the Nnamdi Azikiwe road in Area One, adding that the attack on their vehicle was by Apo bridge and that their field officers had to run back to the office.