

Protest rocks Bayelsa over suspect's death in police custody

From Bassey Willie, Yenagoa

Protest erupted at Biogbolo axis of Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, yesterday, following the death of a suspect, Goodluck Ovieke, in police custody.

Angry youths from Epie-Attisa clan barricaded the roads, accusing police of extra-judicial killing of the 27-year-old.

The police had in a statement earlier yesterday alleged that the deceased was arrested on Wednesday in connection with a robbery incident that occurred at Biogbolo area when hoodlums attacked a police patrol team, fatally injured one Inspector Ugbotor Sunday and carted away his rifle.

He was arrested alongside the Youth President of the community, Benjamin Karibo.

But the brother to the deceased, Ebitonye Micheal, who denied the police allegations, insisted that his brother was innocent of the crime he was accused of.

He alleged that Ovieke was murdered in the police cell and his body was later dumped at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Yenagoa.

Police's spokesman in Bayelsa State, Asinim Butswat, in a statement yesterday, said that the Commissioner of Police, Echeng E. Echeng, had ordered for discreet investigation and autopsy to determine the cause of the death.

He said, "The deceased suspect

was arrested in connection with the armed robbery incident that occurred on 21 September, 2021, at Biogbolo, Yenagoa, when hoodlums attacked Police Patrol team, fatally injured Inspector Ugbotor Sunday and carted away his rifle. Preliminary investigation reveals that Goodluck Ovieke was the mastermind of the attack on the patrol team.

"He was arrested on September 22 at about 3am. While in police custody, the suspect was observed to be running high temperature and was rushed to the hospital where he eventually died.

"The CP condoles with the family of the deceased and assures the general public that investigation has commenced and the outcome will be made public."