

Police kill butcher over N100 in Ughelli, Delta State

THE only offence for which life was snuffed out of a young butcher identified as Ogboko Omoruelekpokpo Atefa was his refusal to pay N100 per cow before they are slaughtered at the abattoir.

The N100, it was learnt, was an arrangement allegedly prescribed by a local veterinary doctor, to allow the butchers slaughter their cows without inspection, a situation which had pitched the butchers and the veterinary doctor in Ughelli, Delta State against each other.

The young butcher was allegedly shot dead by policemen allegedly called in by the veterinary doctor to enforce the payment of the N100 fee.

It was learnt that the butchers who have their abattoir at Ekiugbo-Ughelli Junction on the highway, had been paying the veterinary doctor the N100 per cow fee through an agent for over a year and at the end of every month.

An eyewitness told *The Guardian* that trouble

*From Chido Okafor,
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started when the butchers refused to pay any further, insisting that the veterinary doctor comes to the abattoir to do his work for the safety of members of the public.

The source said the victim was shot dead when he challenged the police team for assaulting his stepmother, a meat seller.

The butcher decided to approach the policemen but two of the policemen suddenly opened fire on him and killed him on the spot.

A senior Police officer at the Ughelli Police Station who does not want his name in print confirmed the incident.

The officer disclosed that the body of Atefa had been deposited at Ughelli Central Hospital Mortuary.

He told *The Guardian* that the five police officers allegedly involved in the killing had been arrested.

The source said they were trying to track down the veterinary doctor, adding that investigations were on to get to

the root of the matter.

Meanwhile, the family of the deceased had petitioned the Inspector General of Police, urging him to constitute a high-powered probe into the death of son to determine the involvement of the police hierarchy in Delta State and the activities of the veterinary doctor.

In the petition written and signed on behalf of the family of the deceased by Chief O. M. Anuku and Associates, they called for the prosecution of the police officers involved in the alleged shooting to death of their brother.

Anuku explained the veterinary doctor in a bid to intimidate the butchers went to the State Police Headquarters in Asaba and was given five police officers, who stormed the abattoir in the morning of July 3, 2007.

Their mission was to enforce the payment of N100 fee against the wish of the butchers that the cows be examined and certified fit and proper by the veterinary doctor before they were slaughtered instead of the N100 in lieu of examination.