

Families sue police for alleged murder of two friends

APORT Harcourt High Court has granted an application to enforce the fundamental human rights of Michael Akor and Michael Onyebuchi Igwe, who were allegedly murdered in police custody in July in the town.

The court has also ordered that a motion on notice be served on the following respondents: the Inspector General of Police; Attorney General of the Federation; Commissioner of Police, Rivers State; Attorney General, Rivers State; Assistant Superintendent of Police, Samuel Chibuzor Akaefu, Emeka and the District Officer, Okporo Police Post.

Justice N. Akpughunum gave the order upon reading the affidavit filed by Mrs. Catherine Akor and Ekwutos Igwe, whose sons were murdered in Police custody in

*From Kelvin Ebiri,
Port Harcourt*

July.

The plaintiffs want the court to declare that the extra-judicial killing of Michael Akor and Michael Onyebuchi Igwe, allegedly by two police officers, Mr. Akaefu and Emeka, was unlawful, unconstitutional and a violation of the deceased fundamental human right to life as enshrined in Section 33 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria and Article 4 of the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights.

Another relief being sought is an order compelling the Inspector General of Police, Commissioner of Police, Rivers State, ASP Akaefu, Emeka, and the District

Officer, Okporo Police Post, to deliver and handover the bodies of the deceased to their parents for proper burial.

The parents of the deceased prayed the court to declare that the forceful seizure and carting away of the properties of their sons by the police, acting under the guise of conducting a search, is unlawful and a violation of their right to own movable property as guaranteed by Section 44 (1) (a) and (b) of the 1999 Constitution.

The parents want an order compelling the respondents to release the properties belonging to the deceased, which ASP Akaefu and Emeka allegedly took away from the residences of Michael Akor and Michael

Onyebuchi Igwe.

And as a compensation for the violation of the deceased right to life as guaranteed them by the 1999 Constitution, the plaintiffs demanded that a sum of N50 million be awarded against the Inspector General of Police, Commissioner of Police, Rivers State, Assistant Superintendent of Police, ASP Akaefu and Emeka.

Michael Akor, 29, a graduate in the Department of Business Administration, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt and his friend, Michael Igwe, were arrested on the July 22, at Okporo Road, Port Harcourt, where they allegedly had a dispute with a recharge card merchant, who later invited the police.