NEWS

Family demands release of police report on son's death

• Seeks compensation

By Felix Kuye

THE family of one Mr. Egerton Ogbomo has demanded the release of the report of a special investigation ordered by the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ogbonna Onovo, into the alleged shooting of the engineer at a police checkpoint in Lagos last year, which led to his eventual death.

Also, the family is seeking prosecution of anyone found responsible for the death of Ogbomo, just as it demanded adequate compensation for the deceased's family.

In a petition to the Inspector General of Police dated October 20, 2009, the legal firm representing the deceased's family - Okonjo, Odiawa and Ebie, alleged that Ogbomo, while returning from a business outing at about 12:30 a.m. on August 13, 2009, was flagged down for inspection at a checkpoint manned by policemen attached to the Rapid Response Squad (RSS), Unit 49 at the Second Roundabout, Lekki.

According to the counsel, Ogbomo submitted himself for checking and was not found to have broken any law, but suddenly, "one thing led to another and the aforesaid policemen mysteriously and inexplicably released/fired gunshots into the air, incidentally one or more of the bullets hit Mr. Ogbomo on his stomach and chest".

They said the policemen "took our client to the Premier Specialist Hospital, Victoria Island, Lagos, for treatment, while all the way continued apologising to Ogbomo for shooting him".

Though Ogbomo underwent surgery same day to remove the bullets from his body, he died eight days after from complications caused by the operation.

Three senior police officers attached to the RRS who were identified as Okafor, Ayo and Odumosu, were said to have visited the deceased at the hospital during which they expressed regret over the incident.

Following the petition, the IG, in a circular dated November 3, 2009 and signed by one of his Principal Staff Officers, ACP Greg Esele, directed the Lagos State Police Commissioner to "forward a comprehensive report of the incident" to his office.

"What is not clear is whether the Lagos State Police Command has carried out the investigation demanded by the IG and if anything has been done, what is the result of the inquiry?", the counsel said in a statement made available to journalists at the weekend.

They called on the police authorities to release the report of the investigation, prosecute anyone found culpable and "compensate the family of the deceased to assuage the pains, trauma and suffering they now pass through".

According to them, Ogbomo is survived by a wife, two children and other dependants.

...y kingpin in prison

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...ra council laments robbers' siege

From Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin

siege to unsuspecting motorists and passengers, robbing them of their valuables and in some cases, maiming or killing their victims.

Recently, a private soldier at 32 Brigade, Nigerian Army Sobi, Ilorin, was shot dead along Jebba/Ilorin road during a raid on a passenger bus by the robbers.

According to some of the victims who spoke with The Guardian in Ilorin, it is now difficult to travel on major roads within the council as many commercial drivers hitherto plying the roads have stopped due to the robbery attacks.

Speaking on the development, Chairman, Moro Council, AbduRaheem Adisa, lamented the frequent armed robbery cases between Ilorin and Jebba.

According to Adisa, all efforts by both the council and the Police to rid the road of armed robbers have proved futile.

He disclosed that the council spends about N2 million as monthly running cost on vigilance groups employed by the council.

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