

Policeman kills Edo youth leader

From **Alemma-Ozioruva Aliu**, Benin

A YOUTH leader in Ugbor community, Benin City, Edo State capital identified as Sunny Black, was reportedly shot dead on Monday by a yet-to-be-identified policeman.

The incident was said to have happened during a scuffle between him and the police over reports that the deceased was trying to intercede in a case of rape of a young girl.

But when contacted yesterday, the state Police Commissioner, Olayinka Balogun, said he was yet to be briefed on the development.

The Guardian gathered that trouble started at about 12 noon when some youths heard the cry for help from the girl who was allegedly being raped by a boy (names withheld) who claimed to be her boyfriend. The boys were

said to have beaten up the boy to a pulp and presumed him dead after rescuing the girl.

But the boy was said to have managed to escape from the community after which he was said to have mobilised and began attacking households in the area.

To prevent the situation from escalating, men of the Edo State Anti-Crime Unit, *Operation Thunderstorm*, were said to have been invited to the scene. The deceased was said to have come on scene at this stage when he met armed policemen on ground and reportedly challenged the policemen for beating up one of his boys who was said to have resisted arrest. At this point, a police rifle was said to have fallen to the ground, discharging a shot, which hit one of the policemen on the left leg.