

Family, police disagree over killing of council chief

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THE family of the murdered Director of Personnel Management (DPM), Isoko North Local Council of Delta State, Mr. Benjamin Chegwe has accused the police of attempting to shield the actual identity of the assailants. Chegwe was hacked to death in his farm on September 30 while in the company of some policemen who had gone with him to the farm to arrest some Fulani herdsmen whom he accused of destroying his crops.

His brother, Mr. Emeka Chegwe, who spoke with reporters on Monday in Asaba, accused the police in Kwale of complacency in the gruesome murder.

He said that one Momodu Osuya, a vigilante and youth leader, and four police officers from Kwale Police Division, all of whom were present at the murder scene, have hands in the act.

He maintained that the police's spurious explanation that a Fulani herdsman named Sule Maigari, who allegedly shot the deceased, had been arrested was total falsehood and an attempt by the security agency to absolve itself of complicity in the murder as the said Maigari was nowhere near the scene of crime on the day in question.

The family spokesman, a lawyer, said that the family had petitioned the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ikechukwu Ayo Aduba after their own investigations to draw his attention to the contradictions and complacency of the police investigating team.

He said that there were no thick bushes around the murder scene to facilitate the kind of ambush alleged by the police, and that there were fresh cattle footprints and wasted bullet pellet.

But Aduba insisted that there was no controversy surrounding the matter as he disclosed that one of the suspects was arrested at Onitsha, Anambra State with a bullet wound in his stomach after a thorough investigation.

The Delta police boss said that the suspects have been charged to court for conspiracy, murder and are being remanded in prison custody, adding that instead of the family of the victim to commend the police for a job well done, they are busy blaming his men in an attempt to retrieve the vehicle of the deceased.

He threatened that if at the end of it, the family is found to have given false information and not able to prove their allegations as none of them was at the scene, they would be taken up on the matter.

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