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Police apologise for killing widow in Akure

THURSDAY, 18 APRIL 2013 01:00 FROM NIYI BELLO, AKURE
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ONDO State Police Command on Wednesday publicly apologised to the people of the state for last month's killing of a widow, Mrs. Segi Olajiga, by a policeman, Constable Alonge Abdul at a check-point in Akure, the state capital, allegedly during an argument with a commercial bus driver over a N20 bribe.

The victim, a mother of four, and petty trader whose husband died four years ago, was in an Akoko-bound vehicle when the incident happened around the Plaza Hotel area of the metropolis.

Incidentally, both the policeman, and the deceased are from Akoko.

The killing led to a disruption of social and commercial activities, as irate youths and residents took to the streets to protest the killing. The Ijapo Police Station, to which the killer cop was attached to, was sacked by the irate mob.

Although Abdul was dismissed by the Commissioner of Police Patrick Dokumor within 24 hours of the killing and he is at present on remand at the Olokuta Prisons sequel to his arraignment in court.

The police boss at a press briefing offered "an unreserved apology to the good people of this state for what happened."

Dokumor, who addressed the press on the achievements of the command in arrest of law-breakers since he took over two months ago, said while he was not holding brief for the dismissed policeman, the incident could be put in the realm of a very costly mistake.

The police at the briefing also paraded a large crowd of suspected lawbreakers, including 46 armed robbers, five cultists, five car snatchers and 12 kidnappers while different types of ammunition and four stolen vehicles were recovered from them.

The suspected kidnappers included those who were said to have masterminded the abduction of Olubunmi Oke, a female journalist with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) in Akure, whose family paid a N1 million ransom and those who seized Mrs. Taye David-West, an indigene and daughter of the late Asamo of Akure, from whose family the hoodlums got N3 million.

Also paraded was a three-man gang of fraudsters led by a 38-year-old HND graduate who sent a fake bank alert to a car dealer in Akure after collecting a N1.6 million car from him. The car was retrieved in Ajegunle area of Lagos.

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