

Protest rocks Yenagoa over killing of food vendor by military personnel

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Yenagoa

04 February 2020 | 2:11
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The Igbo community under the umbrella of the Ohanaeze Youth Wing and other concerned Nigerians took to the streets of Yenagoa yesterday over the killing of a food vendor, Precious Okwuadigbo, in front of a popular nightclub in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. With placards bearing different inscriptions such as 'Enough is Enough', 'We Want Justice for Precious', 'Precious' Children are now Motherless' and 'Senseless Killing Must Stop', the protesters marched through the streets of Yenagoa, chanting solidarity songs.

Suspected military personnel in mufti, who got intoxicated at the club, gunned down the single mother of two, on Saturday. A witness said the yet-to-identified security personnel, after drinking to stupor, began shooting sporadically, while one of them shot at Precious, who was selling food beside the club, pointblank in the head. She was rushed to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) in Yenagoa, where she died after doctors tried fruitlessly to save her.



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The police division in Ekeki reportedly arrested the club manager and some private security men working at the club for interrogation, but later hurriedly them.

However, the release of the club's manager and bouncers was said to have irked some members of the Igbo community and other concerned Nigerians who believe that those released could help to identify the security personnel, as the suspects reportedly drove away with the manager after the incident.

The South South coordinator of Ohanaeze Youths, Chief Chinedu Arthur-Ugwa, who led the protest yesterday to the state police headquarters and the office of the State Security Service (SSS), said the protest was to make sure that justice was done by identifying and arresting the killers.

According to him, the police and the DSS have a duty to ensure that the culprit is brought to book, saying that the person who pulled the trigger that snuffed the life out of the lady was known to the club owner and the security men at the club. He said investigation carried out by the group and witnesses' account indicated that it was a popular naval personnel in the state that pulled the trigger, which the authorities were trying to hide.

The group gave security agencies in the state one week to fish out the killer or they would shut economic activities the state.

Also speaking, a member of Ohanaeze in the state, Agama O. Agama, said they would seek justice with everything they had to stop senseless killing of innocent citizens. He called on security agencies to start investigation from the club, as the owners of the club and the workers reportedly knew the killer, as he was a regular visitor to the club.

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Responding on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Operation, Olajide Kolawole, said the police had begun investigation to fish out the culprit. He said the police command would leave no stone unturned in unveiling the circumstances that led to the death of the food vendor and bring the killer to book.

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