

# Distraught widow narrates how policeman killed her husband

From Lawrence Njoku (Enugu)

A distraught mother of four, Mrs. Oluchi Orji, yesterday narrated the ordeal of her late husband, who was shot by a policeman in Enugu.

The husband was one of those killed by a trigger-happy police officer guarding their neighbour's house at the Golf Estate, Government Reserved Area (GRA), Enugu, on Sunday.

The culprit, who hails from Cross River State, shattered the peaceful ambience of the neighbourhood on Sunday when he opened fire on residents, killing five and injuring four others.

While some of the victims of the shootings were said to be those living or working in the compound where the policeman was guarding, others were said to be innocent passers-by and neighbours.

The police inspector attached to Special Protection Unit (SPU) Base 9, Umuahia, Abia State, but on duty in Enugu allegedly started shooting sporadically, killing and wounding the

victims.

The policeman was said to be guarding the residence of the boss of RC Lotto, who was said to have travelled at the time of the incident.

The officer, according to sources that pleaded anonymity, was alleged to be a psychiatric patient who was treated for mental illness sometime ago.

Sources said that it was not clear what might have triggered a relapse, prompting the police guard to embark on the shooting spree. But Mrs. Orji, whose husband was a victim, stated that the officer neither drinks nor smokes. She stated that it was the fence of the building that he was guarding that demarcated their residence, adding that they had always communicated.

Speaking to *The Guardian* in their No. 1 Chukwuemeka Ujam residence on Tuesday, Mrs. Orji said: "I would also have been killed if I was around."

She said the MOPOL officer, who hails from Cross River State, had been their neighbour and related well with them since he started guarding the No. 3 Chukwuemeka Ujam close residence belonging to some white men in the last one year.

Orji, who spoke amid tears said: "I went for the burial of my childhood friend on Saturday. The MOPOL man could have killed me if I was around because we are neighbours. He is always talking about Biafra and how Nnamdi Kalu was sending unknown gunmen to kill police officers. He had always vowed to take revenge one day."



Orji