

## Torture Victim Died In Police Custody Not Hospital, Counsel Tells Panel

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

### Inspector Onoja Is Not A Witness Of Truth

COMPLAINANT'S counsel, C.R.O. Adakole in the alleged extra-judicial killing of Peter Ekwealor of Odekpe Community in Anambra State has told the Independent Investigation Panel on alleged police brutality to hold that a police witness, Inspector Ahmed Onoja of the IGP IRT, Force Headquarters, Abuja lied about where the victim died.

The petitioner's counsel informed the 11-Member Panel chaired by Justice Suleiman Galadima (rtd)

that while the victim died in the hands of the police, following intense torture, the police witness, Onoja claimed that the deceased was taken to the hospital before he eventually gave up the ghost.

Buttressing his point, Adakole upon cross-examination of the police witness, asked the witness whether he knows the meaning of B.I.D., and he answered no.

Explaining to him, Adakole said B.I.D means Brought In Dead just like he noted that Peter Ekwealor was dead

already before his body was deposited in the mortuary.

Against the forgoing, he told the police witness that the hospital card with which the police deposited the body of late Peter Ekwealor in the Mortuary of Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital, Abuja carries the information that the victim died before he was brought to the hospital.

In view of the above, Adakole asked the panel to hold that the police witness is not a witness of truth and for the reason the panel

should not rely on his testimonies.

The Complainant's counsel also told the panel that from the testimonies of the police witness, Peter Ekwealor died on 16th of June, 2020.

He pointed out that as at 3rd of September 2020, when he wrote a letter to the the former Commander of IRT, Abba Kyari over the condition of the victim, no information about his death was released to the deceased family despite the fact that the victim had died before the said letter was written.