

Police Inspector Kills Welder Over Girlfriend

By Uwakwe Abugu
BUREAU CHIEF, Benin

A 25-year old welder, Gbenga Ade, has been shot dead by a Police Inspector in Benin City, Edo State, for allegedly raping the cop's girlfriend.

The incidence threw the Obamwonyi Street in Oliha Quarters in the city metropolis into confusion and pandemonium. The tragedy also reverberated both in the Central Hospital Benin and the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) where doctors

battled in vain from the early hours of Thursday till about 7:30pm when Ade finally gave up the ghost.

Edo Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Peter Ogboi told our reporter yesterday that the command was investigating a case of murder. He, however, did not elaborate on what the police are doing to bring the culprit to book.

The deceased was shot in the head by the said police inspector, whose name was not immediately available, when he led a team of other policemen

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who were operating in a red bus to No.7 Obamwonyi Street, where the late Ade resided.

According to eye witnesses, the police inspector had accused the deceased of raping his girl friend within the compound and that the deceased had roundly denied the allegation. An argument ensued during which one of the tenants asked the invading policemen to produce the girl in question to substantiate the claims.

The witness who did not give his name owing to the tensed atmosphere shortly after the incident occurred, explained that he asked that the lady in question be brought forward and when they did; "I con asked am whether na me rape am, she say no. Gbenga con ask her whether na he rape am and she said no." The eye witness, like others, explained further that even with the confusion of identifying who actually raped his girl friend, the cop still did not believe Gbenga

and attempted to force him to follow them to the police station. The victim now told them that he wanted to lock his door and that it was while he made to lock his door that the police officer shot him pointblank in the head thereby throwing the entire place into confusion.

It was further gathered that as soon as his victim lay on the ground in a pool of his blood, the assailant and the other policemen who had accompanied him to the place quickly ran into their vehicle and sped away.

It was also learnt that the men are policemen attached to Textile Mill Road Police Station in Benin City. Although the late Ade's stepfather, Roland Omoragbon, told Saturday Independent yesterday at the UBTH that the Divisional Police Officer for the aforementioned police station disclosed to him that the erring police officer has been arrested and handed over to the CID at the Police Headquarters, the police authorities yesterday did

not confirm the development to newsmen.

Coordinator of volunteers for the Save Accident Victims Association of Nigeria (SAVAN), Miss Itohan Osaghiobare, told our reporter at the office of the organization located within the accident ward of UBTH that the incident, which happened the previous day, was brought to their notice when the victim was taken to the Central Hospital, Benin.

According to her, SAVAN liaison officer at the Central Hospital facilitated the transfer of the victim to UBTH when it was obvious that his condition was beyond the capability of the hospital.

Meanwhile, the family of the victim, according to Mr. Omoragbon who was seen along with other relations of the deceased, trying to get his death certificate yesterday, is getting ready to pursue the matter to its logical conclusion so that justice will be done.