

Gunmen Kill Uniben Lecturer As Family Alleged Murder Of Relation By Police

By Uwakwe Abugu
BUREAU CHIEF, Benin

It was sour Yuletide for the family Marsuel Obazee a lecturer in the Department of Agriculture, University of Benin, as some gunmen shot and killed him in the presence of his wife and only daughter on Boxing Day.

The incident, which took place at about 7.30 p.m. on the fateful day, took the relations of the deceased by storm as they had been with him all through the Christmas period and even a few hours before he was brutally murdered by the assailants believed to be armed robbers.

The killing came on the heels of the death of one Chimezie Ewurum on

December 23 by a mobile police man in a circumstance the police appear to be interpreting as possible case of killing an armed robber.

The family of late Ewurum has petitioned the state police commissioner, protesting the killing as pure case of premeditated murder of the deceased by the police man who did the shooting that took life out of their kin.

In the case of the UNIBEN lecturer who was killed, his wife explained that the deceased had gone out with her and their daughter to observe the Boxing Day celebration and that they had returned to their residence at No. 29 Agbontaen Street, Off Obazee Street, Upper Mission Road in Benin city when they were accosted at the

gate to the house by the gunmen.

It was gathered that she had disembarked from the Audi 180 car in which they were riding when two of the assailants appeared from the corner where they had laid an ambush for the residents of the house and that they quickly took the car key from their victim and tried to make away with the vehicle but he it could not get started.

Sources said they had ordered the deceased to start it but that in the confusion and tension that reigned, he too could not start the vehicle. Upon this, the hoodlums took the man's purse and shot him at close range before making away.

His remains have been deposited in the morgue of the Central Hospital

in Benin city. The divisional police for the New Benin Police station, Odogwu Kanene confirmed the incident and said the police are investigating it.

On the other hand, the death of Ewurum is now a source of controversy pitting the family against the police and whereas the family's petition signed by Nkeru Ewurum alleged that he was murdered and being branded an armed robber by cop who did the act, police claim that the matter is a case of armed robbery being investigated.

According to the family of the deceased, he was returning from an outing at about 9.30pm when the police officer in question accosted him and accused him of being in

**Doma Presents
N53.6b Budget
To NSHA**

