

How police killed our sons, family tells tribunal

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A BLOOD-CHILLING account of how the police in Abia State murdered four innocent persons in cold blood at Ntigha in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of the state in June last year has been made public in Owerri, Imo State capital, at the weekend.

The victims include a trader, Chibueze Ibezim, and a policeman attached to Benny Aris Hotels, Umuahia.

Rev. Sis. Maria Ogochukwu Manu, who narrated how the four were summarily executed by one Commander Aliyu and his men of the Mobile Police Squadron stationed at the Nsulu Games Village in Isiala Ngwa North, said the four were sent from Umuahia to Aba by the proprietor of the hotel, Chimobi Onuegbu, to purchase some automobile spare parts.

On getting to Ntigha junction, the men were arrested by the Mopol when they saw the police attached to Benny Aris Hotels carrying gun in mufti but bear-

ing a police identity card, she said.

The clergywoman, who spoke on behalf of the Ibezim family told the Public Tribunal on Police Abuses in Nigeria which held sitting in Owerri for the South East zone at the weekend, said despite that the victims explained themselves properly and were also identified by Onuegbu on the telephone, they were taken to Nsulu Games Village where Aliyu ordered his men to execute them and brand them as armed robbers.

Following their killing, Sis-

ter Manu, who is an aunt to Chibueze, stated that the police in Umuahia thereafter celebrated the murder as having killed a gang of armed robbers.

She stated that following series of events which include different petitions by the families of the four victims and protests by some youths of Ibeku, Umuahia, who vouched for their innocence, the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Ogbonna Onovo, ordered a thorough investigation which later proved that the four victims were innocent of the allegations levelled against them.