

Ndigbo

Mystery death of *Okada* rider in Onitsha

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THE death of a certain Augustine Ugwu, a 38-year-old *Okada* rider, at an hotel in Owellebo area of Inland Town, Onitsha, Anambra State has drawn out the investigative instincts of the police in the state.

Mr. Ugwu, reportedly an indigene of Edem-Ani in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State, was said to have been involved in a fracas that eventually led to his death when he visited a friend - a staff of the hotel to relax at about 1 pm.

He is a father of four and regular visitor to the hotel, where he met with the bosom friend whom he visited on the said day. Already his body has been taken to New Hope Hospital, Onitsha, where he was confirmed dead even before his relations were informed.

Edem Youth Association (EYA) in Onitsha is already agitating against the manner the matter is being handled, questioning the rationale behind the autopsy by the police and the management of the hotel, said to the owned by a magistrate.

According to the President of EYA, Mr. Festus Omeje, the police report and confession



•The deceased

of the suspect in the murder indicate that Ugwu died as a result of a hard object used on him during a scuffle that ensued between him and staff of the hotel.

"We are worried that all the investigations carried out so far about this murder is shrouded in secrecy, without the knowledge Ugwu's people," said Omeje.

He wondered how management of the hotel would have carried out an autopsy of the deceased without consent of any of his relations, saying that the suspect equally handed over N18,000 and handset allegedly belonging to the deceased to his relations at Inland Town Police station.

Omeje said though the

suspect confessed having killed Ugwu, they were not convinced that he was the only person involved in the killing, as there were several machete cuts all over his body, suggesting that one person might not been responsible for the murder.

He said: "we are asking the police to ensure that justice is not only done, but seen to have



•Augustine

been done. We want all those involved to be arrested and prosecuted accordingly," said Omeje.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Anambra State Command, Mr. Emeka Chukwuemeka, an Assistant Superintendent of police (ASP), said that the suspected murderer is already in

detention, adding that the police command has no interest in the matter, apparently referring to the alleged autopsy carried out without the consent of the relations.

The deceased is said to be staying with four children of his elder brother, who died last year, apart from his own four children and wife.

Abians yearn for change – Onwubiko