

Family, CLO seek justice over diver killed by police

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KINGSLEY Chinedu Oshimini, 38 woke up on Monday, March 10, 2014 hale and hearty.

He never had inkling whatsoever that death was lurking in the air for him. As usual, he set out with his commercial bus for his normal business.

He drove down to the NNPC mega filling station at a Lagos bus stop to queue where fuel is sold at the N97 per liter.

On getting to the station, he was shocked to see a long queue. He decided to alight from his bus to help in maintaining orderliness on the queue.

Suddenly, a purported fracas ensued between him and a police officer attached to the Central Police Station (CPS) Lagos Bus Stop.

The police man (names withheld) was alleged to have stabbed him with dagger. The deceased who hails from Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State who resided at 25 Freetown Street Town, Port Harcourt, became unconscious and was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Witnesses said the police officer had confronted the late Kingsley and threatened to stab him if he did not leave the filling station.

The deceased was stabbed close to his spinal cord.



•Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar

While bleeding, he taken to Braithwait Memorial Hospital BMH. He died the following day, Tuesday March 11 at the same hospital at about 3pm.

Solomon Oshimini, elder brother of Kingsley recalled that: "I got a call from someone from BMH who informed me that my brother had just died at the hospital following injury he sustained where the police man stabbed him."

He stated said the remains of the deceased had been deposited at the Military Hospital mortuary.

Prior to that, the Police Crime Extract revealed that the deceased was wounded. But Solomon countered that "we threatened that if police did not correct that statement, we would abandon the corpse at their station."

It was at that point that the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the station

produced the Crime Extract in stating that Kingsley was murdered.

The police further indicated in the Crime Extract that the murder suspect reported himself to the station and admitted that he stabbed someone known as Kingsley Chinedu Oshimini whom he claimed attempted to snatch his gun.

Solomon however lamented that "we hear that the police man's father is a high ranking police officer who may influence this case to frustrate our efforts to get justice and this has been our fear which is why the police have not taken this matter serious even though the killer officer is being detained at the Police Criminal Instigation Department (CID)."

The deceased who was the fifth son in his family is survived by an aged mother close 80 years, who is now critically ill, and also a three years old daughter.

Also commenting, another sibling of Kingsley, Emeka Oshimini called on the police to ensure that the culprit is brought to book.

He appealed to the civil society groups to ensure that the matter is not swept under the carpet.

The Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) Spokesperson in Rivers State, Livingstone Wechie called on the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar and the Rivers State Police Com-

missioner, Tunde Ogunsakin to "do justice to this matter" to relieve the family of pains of the youngman's untimely dead.

Meanwhile, Rivers State chapter of CLO has given the the police 14 days ultimatum beginning from Wednesday 12th March 2014 to charge the matter to court or do face mass protest.

CLO wondered why the police has refused to conduct autopsy on the deceased. "We insist on this because the autopsy, will provide lawful evidence to back the matter."

"We want to state that this is not a case of extra-judicial killing, but a clear murder and must be treated as such so as to serve as a deterrent to others."

Livingstone expressed worry that detaining the suspect is not enough punishment for snuffing life out of the young man but the trial of the officer should be made public for the purpose of transparency.

He asked the police to pay the sum of N200 million to the family of the deceased. "We demand that the police should pay the deceased family a N200 million compensation for this unbearable loss."

Meanwhile, a reliable source in the police disclosed to the *Saturday Independent*, that the killer police officer has been dismissed in addition to the on-going investigation on the matter.