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One killed, as police, union clash in Onitsha

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There was confusion in Onitsha on Monday following the alleged killing of one Mr Felix Nwoke by policemen believed to have come from Ogbaru police station.

But for the intervention of union officials led by Dr Jim Okonkwo, chairman Board of Trustees, Motorcycle Transport Union of Nigeria (MTUN/OWAN), members of the union would have taken laws into their hands and burn down the police station and security buses at the scene.

Late Nwoke, Daily Independent gathered, was an executive member of MTUN/OWAN and was fighting the rights of his members when he was allegedly shot by the police.

Members of the MTUN/AOWAN accused the police of killing their member for unjustified reasons.

Anambra State Police Public Relations officer, Mr James Ezeh, confirmed the incident and said that investigations are ongoing to unravel what led to the death of Nwoke.

Ezeh could not confirm that the police had a hand in the death.

He promised to ensure that those involved in the killing will be arrested after a comprehensive investigation.

Okonkwo accused the security operatives, especially the police, of killing one of the executive members of his union who did not commit any offence.

He explained, "I had a phone call that some policemen in Anambra State are battling our union members, molesting and extorting money from them.

"They collect N30, 000 to bail any of our members whenever they are arrested. The thing became heavily embarrassing to our union. We wrote to the Commissioner of Police about this ongoing crime against our union members.

"After some weeks again, I had another call now that one of our executive members, Mr Felix Nwoke was shot dead at Okpoko in Onitsha by some policemen and those who call themselves security task force. When the incident happened, the police men ran away with their vehicle while the task force boys they came with abandoned their bus and ran away.

"Some members of the crowd wanted to take laws into their hands and burn the vehicles including the police station, but I called on them not to take laws into their hands as the Union will make sure that the culprit will be brought to book", he said.

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