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# How Alleged Police Negligence Claimed Life Of Newborn Baby In Anambra



By Raymond Ozoji

7:26 am, Thu, 28 May 20

METRO



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**AWKA** – The pathetic narrative of the avoidable death of a day-old baby due to the negligence of police operatives at Obodoukwu Road in Onitsha is one out of the many melancholy state citizens have found themselves.

A baby that would have survived if the police at Okpoko Divisional Police Station had heeded the pleas from a nurse and father of the child to allow it to be taken to the hospital for urgent medical attention, allegedly died due to delay in taking the newborn baby to another hospital for oxygen placement.

This is the story of the ill-fated day old baby. “My name is Chinwendu Okafor. I am from Igboekwu in Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State. I am an Auxiliary Nurse working with Mother of Mercy Maternity.

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“On Saturday, May 16, 2020, a woman in labour came to our hospital, Mother of Mercy Maternity to give birth. Her case turned out to be cesarean operation. Her husband, Mr. Uche, signed the authorisation paper for her to be operated on.

“Honestly before the operation was concluded and the baby was brought out it was war. So after the baby came out, the breathing pattern changed, the baby was breathing like an asthma patient, so we used drug on the baby to calm the baby down but all our effort was in vain.

“So the placenta was cut and the Matron and owner of the hospital told me to carry the baby along with the father and a relative to Infant Jesus Hospital, which is along Tarzan Road. So we drove with the man’s car to the hospital.

“When we got there the two nurses that were on duty chased me back to stand outside the gate, so I told her to attend to the baby that the child is not breathing well and she said yes that I should sit outside with the father and sister. After we sat down the two nurses came and examined the baby and they tried calling their doctor but told us that there was no network.

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“The baby’s father said that he could not take such from them that his baby is going to die if care is not taken and that we should go to another hospital. We got into his car to another hospital in the area. On getting to the place, he told us to get down that we should cross the main road so that he would pack his car well and catch up with us.

“I carried the baby and crossed the road; I looked back but did not see his sister who came down from the car with me. I became worried while I waited to see if she would appear. While I was still carrying the baby, some passerby and people that were selling fruits around that Obodoukwu area, opposite Tarzan started asking me... Nurse who

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owns that child that you are carrying and I told them that the baby Aunt came down from the car with me and that is her that I am looking for her now that the baby needs urgent medical attention.



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“I told them that the father of the baby was going to come soon that we were on our way to the hospital and they said that I was lying. Before I know it people started gathering and shouting that I stole a baby. Those that are with phones started making video of me while I cried for help.”

“They accused me of stealing the baby. I told them that I am a nurse from MOTHER OF MERCY MARTERNITY. They did not believe me and they rushed and called a Police woman who came to the scene and asked me what happened.”

“The next thing was that the policewoman said I should close my mouth; that I will follow her to the police station, Okpoko.

“Immediately the father of the baby arrived the scene and asked what the matter was. He pushed the officer away and told them that the baby is his own.

The policewoman and two other officers insisted that I and the father must go to police station despite explaining to them how urgent the baby needed oxygen.

“They called KEKE and asked me to enter with the baby because the man’s car could not start.

“They took me to Okpoko Police Station at Owerri Road. I pleaded with them to follow me so we can take the baby to the hospital but they refused until one of them came out and saw that it was really a new born baby with blood all over the body and ordered that the baby be taken to hospital.

“The father of the baby was crying like a baby, pleading with the police woman that his wife who delivered the child was at the hospital as she gave birth through operation, rather the officers collected his phone from him.

“We later took the baby to GOODNEWS HOSPITAL with the police. When we got there, the medical doctor came out and asked the nurses on duty to put drip and check if it will pass, the nurse did and blood was not coming out from the vein.

“The doctor came out again and told her to stop that the baby was dead. So I started crying and calling on the police woman to see what she has done.

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“I cried and blamed the police woman for not allowing us take the baby to the hospital on time. I told her that she would have handcuffed me and save the child first then get me arrested if she finds out I stole the baby.

“The policewoman started consoling me and the father. It was then that they dropped us back to the junction where we took Keke to my hospital with the dead baby. I narrated my experience and ordeal to the Matron, Mrs. Chinenye Egbodike, and the Doctor who confirmed that the delay was what killed the baby.

“The hospital and the husband, Mr. Uche could not tell the mother of the child that her baby was dead as she was still in a critical condition but curious to see her new born baby.

“Few minutes later, calls started coming into my phone and that of my mother who was at home, that they saw a video of me on the Social Media where I was apprehended for stealing a baby. The news got me devastated as I cried out to God but it was rather late as more calls from family and friends kept coming.

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