

# Tipper drivers protest 'killing' of colleague by policemen

**F**OLLOWING the killing of a tipper driver, Mr. John Obele, by a mobile policeman, the Association of Tripper Lorry Drivers in Onitsha, Anambra State yesterday staged a peaceful protest along the streets of the commercial city.

An eyewitness, Mr. Frank Igwe said the incident occurred when the mobile policeman

From **Benjamin Akpa**, Onitsha

demanding N200 bribe from the late Obele, which he had already given.

Igwe said that following the disagreement and argument, the policeman jumped into the tipper lorry and both struggled for the control of the steering. The vehicle hit two persons

waiting for a commercial bike, killing one and injuring another.

He said that as the deceased jumped down and tried to escape, the policeman pursued him and subsequently shot him dead at the Marine junction, old Nkisi road, Onitsha.

The conductor to the deceased driver Mr. Sunday Azodo, said they had made several trips of

lorry load of gravel and have paid the usual daily N200 bribe to police.

Mr. Azodo said that as their vehicle approached the police check point during the last trip, one of the mobile policemen stopped them, asking for N200, the driver explained that he had paid, but the policeman refused and insisted he should pay again.

As the disagreement continued and following the accident in which one person died, Azodo said that he ran away to safety when he heard gunshots which may have killed his driver.

The leader of the protesters, Mr. Chinedu Obaji, urged Governor Peter Obi to rescue them from the hands of policemen, who had been hampering their operation.