

Police kill one, injure another in Benin

A police officer attached to the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Mega Station on Sapele Road, Benin-City yesterday shot dead a man who wanted to buy kerosene at the filling station.

Another man, simply identified as Imafidon, was injured.

The victim, Mr. Ebenezer Aisien, tried to approach the filling station's management in order to beat the rowdiness at the station.

He was prevented by a team of policeman, attached to the station.

The late Aisien allegedly

From John Mayaki, Benin

held one of the policemen's gun for fear of being shot, and in the confusion that ensued, the trigger and a bullet went off.

Ebenezer laid in the pool of his own blood.

With the deceased down, the policeman attempted to run but he was stopped by some street urchins, popularly known as 'Area boys'.

He was, however, rescued by his colleagues.

The filling station was vandalised.

It was splattered with the

blood of the slain man.

His body has been deposited at the Central Hospital mortuary.

The police would not speak on the cause of Ebenezer's death.

At the late Ebenezer's father's home, Mr. Solomon Aisien, people were crying.

The relations kept saying: "Who will take care of our brother's children and wife? The police is unfair to our brother. He was not armed and could not have been armed. This is injustice and we will seek redress."

The late Ebenezer's

younger brother said: "We went there to buy kerosene, they said they were not going to sell to us. They told all of us to go out. We were going out and when we reached the gate, when one chief from our area told the police to shoot anybody. The policemen even came to make peace and said we should go outside and it was at the gate they shot."

"The first shot met one of our friend, Imafidon, the other one was a straight bullet. It hit my brother on the knee. I was standing very close to him when he fell down."