

A POLICE man yesterday allegedly killed an Egun Community leader in Makoko. He was identified as Timothy Huntlayanwha. He was killed during a protest at the site of the ongoing demolition in the area.

According to a press statement signed by the Police PRO, Ngozi Braide, the alleged killer is Corporal Pepple Boma, attached to the Marine Police, Oworonsoki Division and posted on special duty with the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) on demolition exercise at the water front of Makoko.

The statement said Mr. Boma "allegedly shot a man in the stomach. The victim was rushed to the General Hospital, Gbagada where he was later confirmed dead. The corpse has been deposited at the General Hospital, Ikeja for post-mortem examination, while the suspect has been arrested and detained at the State CID Panti, Yaba."

"The Lagos State Police Command wishes to use this medium to appeal to Lagosians to maintain peace and remain calm as justice must be done in this case, investigation has, however, commenced in the matter, please."

Since last Monday, the Lagos State Task Force, under the directive of the Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development, has been demolishing wooden stilt houses of the Eguns, a community that perches on the lagoon.

According to some residents, the incident, which reportedly happened at about 1pm, was unprovoked. Peter Hunsu, whose father

Police kill Lagos community leader

• Arrest six protesters

By Precious
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was the first Egun man to settle in the community, said the community "only went out to plead with the government to keep to their word and stop the demolition."

He said the government, before the demolition, told them that only the structures under a high tension power line would be demolished.

"So, those of us that were not under the power line did not bother but we were surprised that the demolition has continued beyond the power line and it seems they want to demolish every of our houses," he said.

The peaceful protest was

the community's last resort after they were reportedly shunned by the commissioner for the Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Prince Segun Oniru, at a meeting brokered by Felix Morka, the Executive Director of the Social and Economic Rights Action Centre, on Friday.

"The commissioner refused to receive us," said the head of all community leaders in Makoko community, Mr. Aganyon. "He only received Dr. Felix, who later came back to tell us that he [the commissioner] refused all entreaties."

"It was a very peaceful protest. Nobody fought them

and while we gathered, they still continued the demolition undisturbed. All of a sudden the police came and started shooting and Timothy was killed," he said.

Since the demolition started, the entire community has been apprehensive of the bleak future that stares at them. Those already displaced, according to Mr. Hunsu, were sleeping outdoor inside the wooden canoes.

"I am more than 60 years old. I was born in this community. The Egun people have been living here for more than 100 years. Where do they want me to go now?" he asked. "We are

fishermen. We did not go to school. We thought they only wanted to demolish the houses under the power line. We did not know that they had ulterior plan," he said, in Yoruba language.

An eye witness, Mr. Ade Aguntor told our reporter that the deceased was the assistant Baale of Makoko. He said the incident occurred at about 10:30am when the representatives of the community who were sent to Alausa secretariat to hold a meeting with the commissioner for Waterfront, Mr. Adesegun Oniru were still briefing the elders on the outcome of the meeting held on Friday.

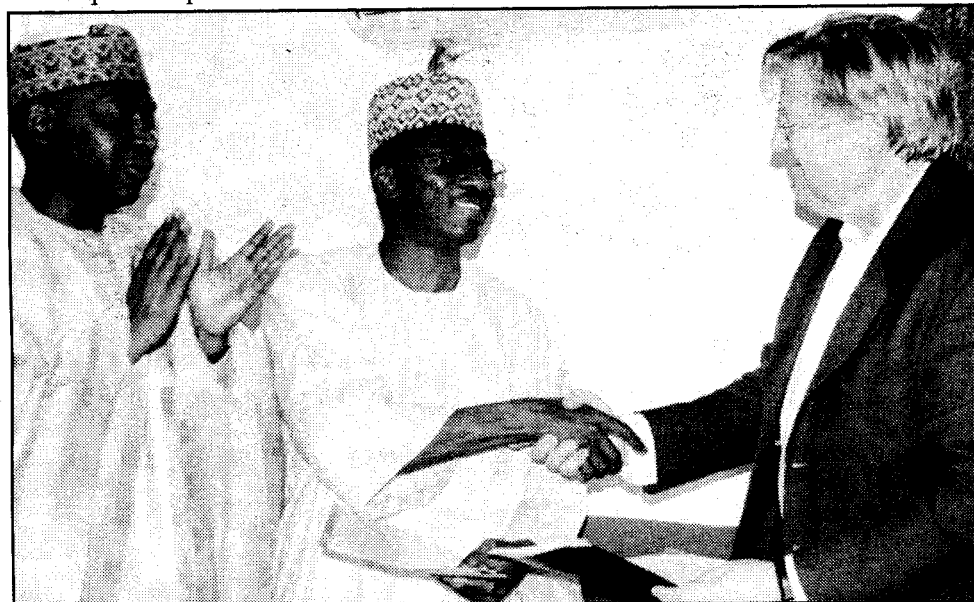
Aguntor recalled "At the meeting, the Baale of Makoko Community, Chief Aji Steven was informed that the officials of the state government had arrived to continue with the demolition exercise in his territory. And immediately he heard this, he left the meeting to order his subjects to ensure that they remove all their property from the house before the demolition exercise commenced."

"Steven who was accompanied by Huntlayanwha sat down to watch how the demolition exercise would commence. As the demolition commenced, Steven further ordered those whose houses were being demolish to park their woods, as it will be useful.

"While the Baale was still directing the dwellers on how to go about it, Peddle stood up from where he was sitting and began to shoot sporadically, adding "one of the bullets met late Huntlayanwha in his left side of his stomach".

According to him, "Immediately he (Huntlayanwha) was hit by the shot, he alerted the Baale who quickly rushed him into the boat towards Oworonsoki jetty. While on their way to Gbagada General Hospital, Huntlayanwha died."

A youth in the community, who declined to give his name, said "Government needs to appreciate the maturity of the community's youth because we could have pushed those police officers inside the lagoon and drown them. They cannot swim better than us but we just wanted peace to reign."



L-R: Leader of delegation, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Power, Alhaji Ibrahim Njiddah, Bauchi State Commissioner for Power and Energy, Mr. Yakubu Bello; and chairman Helois Energie German, Mr. Richard Selles during the handing over of MoU for Inkil 30mw Solar Power Project in Bauchi on Friday.

Heavy security as Ogun holds council election

• Amosun says it's a success

Ernest Nwokolo, Abeokuta

his accreditation said: "This is the very first time we are conducting local government elections in a free and fair atmosphere since 1999. The last exercise under the previous administration was so marred with malpractices and an atmosphere of fear, terror and intimidation that opposition parties had to boycott the polls. So we are having under the current administration free and fair polls

On the reports of missing names during the elections, he said, from the information at his disposal, it was the voters' list given by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) that was used by OGSIEC.

Amosun informed journalists that contrary to alleged cracks in the Action Congress of Nigeria in the state, "the party has a mechanism to resolve every conflict."

acterised such exercise in the past.

The State Director of the National Orientation Agency (NOA) Mr Shola Babalola expressed satisfaction at the smooth and peaceful trend the poll is taking.

Babalola who spoke to The Nation at OGSIEC's Headquarters, said the agency had earlier carried out a house to house enlightenment of the people on the need to come and vote for candidates of their choice.

THERE was tight security across Ogun State yesterday as the residents went to the polls to elect chairmen and councillors for the 20 local governments in the state.

Armed soldiers and policemen were deployed on the roads and strategic places to ensure there was no breach of security.

Restriction of vehicular movement during accreditation and voting was strict.

Of note was the security at the headquarters of the Ogun State Independent