

participatory democracy in the country."

handled.

He said with the modern

Obi Njoku, a former commissioner for Health, presented a

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Edward Ihejirika,

Family demands release of son's body

SAMUEL Eze of Umucheke village in Umunze, Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State has demanded the release of his brother's body from the police.

Samuel's younger brother, Emmanuel, was allegedly shot dead about two weeks ago by a police officer on his way home from a nearby grocery store.

The incident occurred during a protest.

Narrating how his brother was killed, Samuel said the deceased was not part of the protest.

A petition has been sent to the police commissioner. It was signed by the Chairman of the village union, Sylvester Madumere and the Secretary, Livinus Nwafor.

From Nwanosike Onu,
Awka

They urged the police to release the body for burial.

The petition said: "The police officer, who perpetrated the act, should be arrested and prosecuted. Compensation should be paid to the deceased's family, as he had people depending on him."

The chairman said the community was still in shock. He described the late Emmanuel as a quiet and easy-going person.

The Nation learnt yesterday that the elders and leadership of the village visited the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Umunze Division, who assured that the matter would be looked into.

"But one week after, nothing has happened. The body of

the deceased has been seized," our source said.

Police spokesman Uche Eze said: "We are willing to release the body, but we cannot do this except the family comes forward."

He added that no sane policeman would shoot a person except he constituted a threat to the society or to policemen.

Eze recalled that on the day of the protest, the protesters torched a hotel and advanced to the police station to burn it, but the police dispersed them.

Recounting how his brother was killed, Samuel said Emmanuel sold palm kernel and had just returned from the market.

He went on: "About 4pm, my brother headed for a nearby shop to buy soap, but he was shot in the head by a policeman.

"On that fateful day, protesters from Ndikpa village, whose plots of land were sold, protested the arrests of their colleagues (youths) by the buyer. They were on their way to the police station when some officers stopped them. One of them shot Emmanuel, who had just bought a soap he wanted to use to bathe.

"We have no reason to suspect anyone because we are landlords to the police in Umunze. We have a cordial relationship with them.

"The way my brother was killed is suspicious.

"He was not one of the protesters. We have been neglected by the police. After the incident, nobody has apologised to us. The most painful thing is that we have not seen our brother's body."