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Suleiman Abba

Anger over alleged release of murder suspects

Posted by: [Odunayo Ogunmola, Ado-Ekiti](#) in [News](#) 3 days ago

The people of Isinbode-Ekiti in Ekiti East Local Government Area have called on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Suleiman Abba, to investigate the alleged killing of the driver of the traditional ruler of the community, Mr. Lawrence Ojo Olujobi.

They are also demanding the trial of the alleged murderers of Olujobi who was killed on June 15, 2014.

Olujobi, who left behind two widows, was trying to settle a quarrel between his attackers and another fellow in the community when he was hacked to death.

His death sparked an orgy of violence in the community with irate youths vandalising the property of his suspected killers who were initially arrested but were later released.

The release of the suspects from police custody is already causing tension in the community.

The widows of the deceased, Mrs. Mosunmola Olujobi and Mrs. Fayoke Olujobi, in a petition to the IGP made available to The Nation in Ado-Ekiti, lamented that the suspected killers of their husband were released a day after their arrest "without proper investigation and no charge brought against them" for their alleged complicity.

The petition was written on behalf of the widows by their solicitors, A.T. Lawal and Co.

The petitioners wondered why the State Executive Council and Commissioner of Police issued a legal advice on the matter and the release of principal suspects when there was no pending criminal charge against them at the appropriate Magistrate Court.

The widows said they were shocked that instead of the suspects to be arraigned in court to face murder charge, some members of the deceased's family members were charged to court.

The petitioners added: "To our chagrin, some members of the deceased's family were arraigned before an

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Ado-Ekiti Magistrates' Court while those who facilitated the death of their husband were graciously released for no other reason but pecuniary interest, even when the complaint against them are yet to be fully investigated."

They urged the Inspector General of Police to step into the matter to allow the family get justice.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Victor Babayemi, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, however, said the complainants did not provide enough evidence to assist the command to get to the root of the matter.

Babayemi said: "We can't prosecute on hearsay most especially in a murder case. The available evidence which resulted from the police investigation has been forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

"Murder is a very heinous crime and it carries a capital punishment. There should be concrete and direct evidence linking the suspects to the murder. We don't act on sentiment and emotion as people will want us to do but we cannot prosecute based on hearsay.

He added: "The complainant did not provide enough assistance to enable us to get to the bottom of the matter. Yet, we went ahead to carry out our own investigation and we have some evidence available which we have sent to the DPP as stipulated by law. There must be an advice from the DPP to know whether to go ahead with the prosecution. What we are waiting for is the advice from the DPP because the evidence and the case file is with the DPP."

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