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Family petitions cp over death of member in police custody

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📅 21.Apr.2015 | DISQUS_COMMENTS | 👤 Saliu Gbadamosi - Bauchi

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THE family of one Isma'il Ibrahim, who allegedly died in police custody, has petitioned the Bauchi State Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Mohammed, requesting for update on the cause of death of the deceased.

The petition, dated April 17, 2015, written on behalf of the family from the chambers of D. M. Abejeme and Partners and signed by Mr Ibrahim Danjuma Darazo, stated that the deceased was on April 7, 2015 ,brought to the Darazo

divisional police station by his elder brother, Sale Yunusa, on the invitation of the police, adding that since then, he was in detention till he passed on.

The deceased, according to the petition, was alleged to have enticed his brother's wife, saying that, "based on that report, the said Isma'il was detained by the police for more than 24 hours without being charged to court as required by the Constitution (as amended)."

The family alleged that the deceased was denied access to his family members while in custody, adding that they requested for his bail several times but were refused.

The petition further stated that the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Darazo division, had concluded that the late Ibrahim was guilty of the offence he was alleged to have committed when he said in the presence of Sale Yunusa that, "he (DPO) will beat him to the extent that if he (Ibrahim) sees a lady, he will not border to entice her, meaning that he will castrate him."

It stated that the DPO had no power whatsoever to do so, unless by a court of competence jurisdiction.

"The mission of the said DPO was accomplished by not only castrating him but by eliminating him on earth, such statements and the act of torture by the police was unconstitutional, illegal and contravened the United Nations Convention against Torture, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and above all, violated Section 34(1) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended)," the family stated.

According to the petition, based on pressure from the family, a post-mortem examination was conducted on the deceased at the Abubakar Tafwa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) on Friday, April 10, 2015, adding that since then, the investigating police officers in charge of the case, Aboki Moses and Muhammed Labaran and the DPO had refused to collect the report, which was said would be ready by Monday, April 13, 2015.

While requesting the police boss to furnish them with update on the death of the late Ibrahim, the family stated that as a law-abiding family, it was not willing to take law into its hands and expressed the hope that the commissioner would use his good office in order to investigate the matter and bring those involved in what it termed "inhuman, barbaric and unconstitutional act".to book

When contacted on Monday, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the command, DSP Haruna Mohammed, told journalists that he had not seen the petition written by the family and as such, could not comment on it.

A police source, however, confided in the Nigerian Tribune that the deceased died in the hospital where he was taken for treatment when the DPO found him shivering in the cell.

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