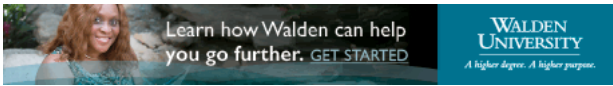


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Police detain ex-lawmaker over death of 14-yr-old girl (/content/police-detain-ex-lawmaker-over-death-14-yr-old-girl)

Written by: Johnson Babajide -Makurdi

A former member of the House of Representatives in Benue State is now cooling his heels at police cell over the death of a 14-year-old girl who died from stray bullet during the April 11 governorship election in the state.

The former House of Representatives member was said to have been arrested by police from zone 4 in Makurdi two days ago, after the state command had refused to act on the petition written by the lawyer in charge of the case, Mr James Samuel Chio.

Mr Chio, who spoke to newsmen on Wednesday said some of the suspected hoodlums who shot and the stray bullet hit the young girl were identified to be relatives of the former House of Representatives member.

The girl, Terkumbur Aguji, who was a housemaid in her aunt's place, in Ushongo town of Ushongo Local Government Area of Benue State was hit by stray bullet while washing clothes at the backyard of the aunt's house, when some suspected thugs invaded a polling unit close to her residence.

The suspected thugs were said to have invaded the polling unit, with the aim of snatching ballot box, but met stiff resistance which prompted the thugs to shoot sporadically and stray bullet hit the young girl.

While giving reasons behind the arrest of the member, Mr Chio said some of the suspected thugs, whose bullet hit the young girl were traced to his action, which he said triggered protest leading to the burning down of his house by rampaging youths.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Austin Ezeani, denied the knowledge of the petition.

At the zone 4 headquarters where he is been detained, a police officer who pleaded anonymity confirmed the detention of the former lawmaker, saying "it was on the order of AIG."

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