

#EndSARS:

## Edo panel summons CP, DPO over alleged killing of 5 youths

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THE Edo State Judicial Panel of Inquiry for victims of the now disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and related abuses, on Wednesday, summoned the Commissioner of Police in the state, Johnson Babatunde Kokumo, and a Divisional Police Officer (DPO), John (surname withheld), to appear before it over the alleged murder of five youths in Itsukwi community in Etsako East Local Government Area of the state.

The Commissioner of Police, who will be appearing as a nominal party, and the DPO are to appear before the panel on December 21.

Counsel for Chief U.K. Yahaya and four others, Kami Asunogie, told the panel that in less than five minutes, the DPO, a Superintendent of Police, allegedly killed five youths in the community over a minor conflict between two neighbouring communities that could have been resolved amicably.

He said the youth were only waiting for an address from their village heads to be read when the police shot at them.

"The matter started on December 28, 2019; it was an issue between two communities, brother and sister, named Imiakebu and Itsukwi in Etsako East Local Government Area of Edo

State under the jurisdiction of the police station in Agenebode. The DPO, who ever invited him, came into the community, killed five youths under five minutes.

"He killed the youth and left; it was the military that were there that took the bodies to the mortuary with the assistance of the people of the community. Up till today, every attempt to seek justice has been resisted by the police and not just the police, particularly the DPO himself," Asunogie said.

"We have come to this panel to seek for justice. The bodies of our youths who were killed must be released to us for burial. They have been in the morgue since December 2019. It is the DPO that is keeping them. We want compensation for our community. Those persons have relations and they must be compensated," he pleaded.