

Protest in Benin over killing of two persons by vigilante

Hendrix Oliomogbe | Benin City

ANGRY mourners on Monday took to the main streets of Benin City, the Edo State capital, to demand police prompt action in the prosecution of the alleged killer of a 63-year-old grandmother, Mrs Lucy Nwaorie, and one Mr Tony Bassey (38).

Mrs Nwaorie, from Enugu State, and Bassey from Akwa Ibom State were allegedly

gunned down in cold blood at suburban Aduwawa in Benin on Thursday, May 20 by a member of the state vigilante, Mr Osagie (surname withheld).

Spokesman of the protesters, Mr Uche Nwaorie, who is also a son of Mrs Nwaorie, explained that his mother, a shop keeper, was sitting in front of her shop with Bassey when gunshots reportedly rang out from the gun of Osagie.

Also, Bassey's widow, who held her two-month-old baby, lamented that the deceased was the breadwinner of the family.

She pleaded with the police to accelerate investigations into the killings and not sweep it under the carpet, adding that the suspect was yet to be charged to court 11 days after the killings.

Uche, while speaking further, said he was still trying to

figure out the motive for the shooting as the police were yet to make a pronouncement on the reason for the action.

He said: "We don't want this case to be swept under the carpet. The police should charge the case to court so that the full weight of the law can be meted on the alleged killer. Nobody has told me the reason for the killings. We will not rest until justice is fully served."