

# Tension in Edo as community accuses police of shielding murder suspect

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TENSION on Monday mounted in Ekiugbo community in Uhunwonde Local Government Area of Edo State over the murder of a local, Ikponwonsa Omoruyi, with youths of the community accusing the police of plotting to shield the suspect in the murder case, identified as Justin.

The youth, under the auspices of Concerned Youths, alleged that the Investigating Police Officer (IPO) in the case, who is of the Legal Unit of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), had perfected plans to prevent the suspect from having his day in court over the matter.

The youth and leaders of the community, therefore, called on the police high command in the state and the Force Headquarters in Abuja to carry out thorough investigation over the killing of Ikponwonsa by the sus-

pect, now said to be held by the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team of the police in Abuja.

The suspect was alleged to have committed the offence in the company of other suspects now at large.

Members of the community also asked the Governor Godwin Obaseki to call to order his senior security aide, Mr Haruna Yusuf, who was accused of shielding the said suspect through the state local vigilante service under his control.

However, while reacting to the accusation, Yusuf denied any involvement in the case, adding that he learnt that the shootout was caused by a politician who mobilised some fake vigilantes to the community.

"I am too busy to have time for all that rubbish. The police in Edo and Abuja are handling the matter, so anyone making any allegation is just wasting his time," Yusuf responded.