

Aguleri community protests death of youth in Anambra police custody

Michael Ovat | Awka

SOME members of Aguleri community in Anambra East Local Government Area of Anambra State have protested the death of a youth of the community, Mr Chidubem Ezenwa.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the deceased was taken into custody, alongside three others, three weeks ago after he and his friends were ac-

cused of violence in a hotel in the community.

He was said to have died in custody, after being tortured by the police who arrested him and also beaten up by fellow inmates in the cell.

Father of the deceased, Mr Sunday Ezenwa, who spoke to journalists during the protest by members of the community recently, said his son came back from his base in Asaba, Delta State, to

check on his friend who was involved in an accident but later died.

"After they were told of the death of his friend, he and his other friends went to a hotel to wait, while the body of their friends was taken to the mortuary.

"In the process, one of them while reminiscing on the death of their friend, broke a bottle and they later paid for the bottle when the ho-

tel management protested, while the President-General of the community, Mr Ifeanyi Iloakasia, called on the police and got them arrested and, in the process, he died.

"Up till now, we have not been told anything about our son and the police have not released his body to us. We cannot accept that our son is dead. They should release his body to us if he is dead."

President-General of the

community, Mr Ifeanyi Iloakasia, who spoke to journalists denied any complicity in the matter, saying he only called on members of the Anambra Vigilante Services (AVG) when the boys started breaking bottles in the hotel and chasing many people around.

"I was not the one that called the police, but the DPO told us that the boy and his friend had been on their

wanted list for cultism," he added.

Confirming the incident, the state police command's spokesperson, Ikenga Tochukwu, said the inmates that beat up Ezenwa to death inside detention had been arraigned in court.

According to the PPRO, yes the man died inside the detention and the inmates that committed the act have been arraigned in court.