

# Pandemonium as police stray bullet allegedly kills 'Aboki' in Benin

Idahosa Moses | Benin-City

THERE was pandemonium on the Benin/Asaba road by Igueomo Junction on Wednesday evening when a stray bullet allegedly fired from a police gun hit and killed a resident in the area.

The yet-to-be-identified victim, believed to be a northerner, was said to have been hit by the stray bullet in front of the house of a Point of Sale (PoS) operator where he had gone to wire N4,000 to his wife in his home village.

A source in the area, who preferred not to be named, disclosed that police operatives were in the area to arrest some hoodlums when the incident occurred.

According to him, "Some Benin boys had an issue with the police. Some policemen stormed the area and in the process of chasing the boys, they shot at the fleeing boys and the bullet hit the victim and he died on the spot.

"The victim was said to have just transferred N4,000

to his wife when he heard of the commotion outside.

"It was said that he decided to run for cover only to be hit by the stray bullet.

"Being that the entire area is mostly populated by Hausa indigenes, his kinsmen came out in large numbers, blocked the road in protest. They even vandalised some police vehicles that passed the area this morning [Thursday]."

The youth, who were armed with sticks and machetes, erected barricades and set bonfires on the highway and ensured that no one had access to the road.

This blockade, it was gathered, left commuters stranded, with passengers forced to disembark from buses arriving from both the Asaba and Benin-City directions.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Chdi Nwabuzor, confirmed the incident.

He said investigation is on to identify those involved in the operation.

Meanwhile, normalcy has returned to the area.