

Extra-judicial killing: Group petitions IGP over businessman's killing by police

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A human rights group, the Forum for Justice and Human Rights Defence (FJHD), has petitioned the Inspector General of Police, Moham-

med Abubakar, to look into the case of one Ogagaoghene Ununuze who was allegedly murdered a fortnight ago by policemen attached to Nigerian Police Station, Oleh, Isoko South Local Government Area, Delta State.

The group made this call in conjunction with the Centre for the Vulnerable and Underprivileged, condemning the act as heinous and barbaric.

It was gathered that the deceased, who was arrested on the order of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the station, allegedly prevented policemen from arresting his brother, one Friday Ununuze.

According to an elder brother of the deceased, Mr Adam Ununuze, one Afor Ogbavigho had gone to the police station at Oleh to lodge a complaint against the deceased's brother, Friday.

The deceased, it was gathered, politely challenged the policemen for manhandling the accused (Friday) in the name of trying to arrest him. He was said to have told the

policemen that Friday Ununuze had some mental challenges.

This action of the deceased was said to have angered the policemen who allegedly returned the following day to arrest him for allegedly obstructing them from carrying out their lawful duty the previous day.

Five policemen were reportedly despatched to arrest him, but it was gathered that, while some of the cops were trying to do that, others began to cart away the wares of the deceased into their *Hihux* van.

In the melee that ensued, the deceased was said to have demanded to know what he did wrong, but the policemen, rather than provide answers, descended upon him with punches, after which he was allegedly shot twice - in the head and the waist.

Realising that Ogagaoghene had given up the ghost, the policemen were said to have rushed into their patrol van and sped off, leaving the deceased in a pool of

his own blood.

Angry bystanders who witnessed the cold-blooded murder reportedly took the corpse of the deceased to the police station with a demand to know the reason for the extra-judicial murder of the deceased who was until his death a businessman selling engine oil and hydraulic fluid.

The National Coordinator of FJHD, Oghenejabor Ikimi, in his petition, is asking the IGP to conduct an impartial investigation on the incident "in a bid to bringing all the erring policemen involved to book, to serve as a deterrent to other trigger-happy policemen who take delight in killing unarmed civilians they are trained to protect."

Delta Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Celestina Kalu, when contacted on phone, said the Commissioner of Police, Ikechukwu Aduba, had earlier issued a press release to that effect and promised to forward same to this reporter. But the press statement was not received as at the time of filing the story.



Ogagaoghene