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Woman constable shoots co-tenant to death

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A female police constable in Akwa Ibom State Police Command, Miss Gift Nniga, has shot to death, her co-tenant, Miss Patience Ukpog, during a scuffle over whose turn was to fetch rain water.

The incident, which took place at about 11pm on Friday at No.3, Kevin Street in Uyo had left the deceased in a pool of blood.

An eyewitness said trouble started when the police constable, attached to 'A' Division in Uyo, took over the portion where tenants usually fetch rain water and refused to allow others the opportunity to take their turn.

Nniga's insistence to fill all her containers before allowing her co-tenants to take their turn prompted a hot argument that later snowballed into a serious fight between her and Ukpog.

The eyewitness, who refused to identify himself, explained that effort to separate the duo became futile as the police constable dashed into her room, brought out a pistol and shot Ukpog at a close range.

When our correspondent visited the house, which had already been deserted by tenants, apparently for the fear of being arrested by the police, the landlord of the building, Mr. John Akpan, said they were all at the corridor of the house when they heard the sound of a gunshot.

Akpan said that though, they did not find any gun in the hands of the constable, their concern at that moment was how to save the life of Ukpog, who was already bleeding profusely.

Another eyewitness, who identified himself as Christopher, said the deceased was shot in the chest and added the she died instantly.

It was also gathered that the police constable ran into her room and locked the door immediately the deed was done. She later opened the door when some policemen came in and arrested her.

Our correspondent observed that some portion of the frontage, where Nniga lives was covered with blood stain as a result of the profuse bleeding of the deceased, whose remains had already been deposited at Anua Hospital in Uyo.

When contacted on Saturday, the Commissioner in charge of the state police command, Mr. Mike Zuokumor, confirmed that Ukpog's assailant was a police constable.

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Zuokumor, however, explained that though the police had not been able to ascertain whether the weapon used by Nniga was a gun, the wounds sustained by Ukpong was from a very sharp object.

He stated that the police were still waiting for the result of the autopsy, which he said would be out in due course.

Zuokumor noted that the suspect had since been arrested while investigation into the matter was ongoing.

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