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Gunmen kill UNIBEN's deputy registrar, student

By Fidelis Soriwei, Benin

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A Deputy Registrar with the University of Benin, Dr. John Ighodalo, was on Monday night shot dead by gunmen in Benin, the Edo State capital.

The deceased was the husband of a two-term lawmaker representing the Oredo West Constituency in the Edo State House of Assembly during the administration of Chief Lucky Igbinedion, Mrs. Elizabeth Ighodalo.

The Police Public Relations Officer in charge of the Edo State Police Command, Mr. Peter Ogboi, who confirmed the killing on the telephone to our correspondent on Wednesday, said the deputy registrar was killed on Benin Technical College Road, at about 8pm.

However, Ogboi refused to comment on whether the incident was a case of armed robbery or assassination.

He insisted that it was too early and indeed, unethical for anybody to conclude without conducting due investigations into the death of the university employee.

He said, "I don't have the details, I am aware of that; we are waiting for the Divisional Police Officer. We are waiting for the DPO to give us some details before we can talk to the press.

"The case has been transferred, we can't say now that it is murder or robbery, but we are suspecting either of them. We cannot say, nobody was with him, let detectives from the Criminal Investigation Bureau look at it."

The Public Relations Officer of the university, Mr. Eddy Akpomera, also confirmed the killing on the telephone to our correspondent.

It was learnt that Ighodalo left the University of Benin and was driving to his residence at No. 2, Osagiede Street, Benin on Monday, when the incident occurred.

Members of his immediate family became apprehensive when they discovered that he did not return from work and they quickly contacted the police who confirmed their worst fears on Tuesday.

The second son of the deceased, Mr. Ofoede Ighodalo, told journalists that his father was shot at close range in the head by his assailants and was left in the Infinity jeep in which he was riding until his corpse was found by policemen from Okhoro Police Division.

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Meanwhile, less than a week into the gruesome killing of a student of the Federal Polytechnic Auchi, another student has been killed in the institution on Tuesday.

Ogboi, who confirmed the recent killing, said that the Divisional Police Officer in Auchi linked the incident to cultism.

He said that two students were arrested in the institution with two locally-made guns and were being detained at the police headquarters in Benin.

Ogboi identified the twin evils of robbery and cultism as the main problems affecting Edo State, adding that the police had killed 115 robbers during recent gun battles.

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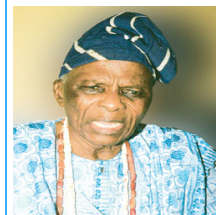
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