

Killing: Falana wants Customs officers barred from carrying arms

Femi Makinde, Akure

PRESIDENT of the West African Bar Association, Mr. Femi Falana, has said that officers of the Nigeria Customs Service should be barred from carrying arms.

This followed the killing of a newly-wedded man last Friday by a Customs officer.

Falana, who has taken up the case against the suspect, a Senior Inspector of Customs, Mr. Ejeh Daniel, said this in Akure on Thursday.

Ejeh, who is attached to the Federal Operations Unit, was

reported to have shot and killed a Dubai-based businessman, Mr. Adeyemi Bayode at Ogere in Ogun State.

The deceased's wife was lucky as she escaped with a bullet wound on her left hand.

Bayode, who was shot at a close range, according to his wife, was hit by bullet on the chest and was pronounced dead at the Olabisi Onabanjo Teaching Hospital in Sagamu.

Falana said, "We intend to take the advantage of this case to stop Customs officers from carrying arms on the road.

"The initial aim of arming them is to protect them from smugglers, but since they have turned around using the guns to kill innocent citizens, the time has come to review the whole decision to arm them.

"We have petitioned the authority concerned to charge the Customs officer who shot Bayode to court latest by Monday.

"We are asking for damages and monetary compensations for the cold murder of the man. His dependants include his newly-wedded wife, parents,

siblings and other relatives."

The human rights activist added that it was wrong for Customs officers to be harassing and intimidating motorists under the guise of checking Customs papers. He said that they ought to have done every checking at the various borders posts and not on the streets.

It was gathered that Ejeh ordered Bayode, who was driving in a Honda salon car with his wife, Adenike, to stop but before he could park, the suspect opened fire on him and his wife.