

Inquest into killing of school leaver begins

AN Apapa District Coroner's Court has begun an inquest to determine the circumstances leading to the alleged killing of a 24-year-old school leaver, Agbonosumua Imana, by men of the Police Rapid Response Squad.

The deceased was said to have died in a controversial manner on the bank of a river along Ist Avenue Festac Town, Lagos on February 24, 2009.

Imana was reportedly sent on an errand by his 74-year-old father on the fateful day and while he was talking with his friends less than 200 metres from their residence, they suddenly heard massive gunshots which prompted them to run to different directions, including the river.

Though the deceased and his friends were still trying to come out of the river in which they had fallen, it was alleged that men of the RRS threw stones and other missiles at them.

The development allegedly led to one of the heavy stones hitting the deceased in the eye, leading to his drowning and death.

The inquest was at the instance of a petition by the lawyer to the deceased's family, Mr. Barth Ehiwele.

When the matter came up before the Chief Magistrate, Mr. A.O. Okunuga, the first witness, Mr. Stephen Imana, who was the father of the deceased, gave his evidence before the court.

The case has been adjourned till September 23.