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Julius Berger workers protest policeman's killing of colleague

By Success Nwogu

Wednesday, 16 Jun 2010

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Workers of Julius Berger Construction company on Tuesday in Lagos barricaded the Iganmu interchange bridge to protest the alleged killing of their colleague.

The workers who blocked the road with their trucks, alleged that one of their senior drivers, Mr. Wahab Amusa, was thrown down the 16-metre-high bridge by a policeman early Tuesday.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident resulted in a gridlock on the Orile-Iganmu and Ijora roads in the early hours of the day.

It forced many commuters, especially public workers, to abandon their vehicles and trek to their offices.

The protesting workers were demanding the release of the corpse of the driver, simply identified as Baba Ahmed, which they alleged, had been taken away to an unknown place by the police.

The son of the deceased, Ahmed Amusa, said the police had neither allowed the family access to the corpse of his father nor communicated to the family of the whereabouts of the corpse.

He said that the family would want the perpetrators to be identified, and punished according to the law.

Witnesses, mostly workers of the construction company told our correspondent that the driver, who had spent about 35 years with the company, went to intervene on behalf of another Julius Berger driver who had an issue with policemen.

According to an eye witness, Mr. Ibrahim Babagana, the deceased was alighted from a vehicle to enquire from the policeman what the problem was.

He added that the policeman confiscated the deceased's money and handset. This, he said, led to an argument and that the policeman pushed Amusa down from the flyover.

He was said to have died instantly while the policeman was said to have zoomed off on a motorbike with his colleague.

The Public Relations Officer, Julius Berger, Ijora Lagos, Suszana Obi, when contacted, said she was not aware of the development and could not say anything about it. She rather said further enquiries should be directed to workers on site during the incident.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Frank Mba, said the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Marvel Akpoyibo had ordered a comprehensive investigation into the matter.

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He said that the policemen on duty at the scene had been arrested and were being interrogated, adding that the arrest of the men did not in any way suggest that they were guilty or not.

He appealed to the members of the public with useful information to make such available to the police.

Mba said, "The circumstance surrounding that death is still shrouded in mystery. The allegations was that police officer on duty had an encounter with a staff of Julius Berger and the man allegedly fell and died."



Mr Commissioner for Environment, have you visited Tarkwa bay lately?



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- why won,t this kind of thing happen, when all police do is to stand on the road and collect money and abandon their duty as an officer. illetrate have taking over police force. am sorry my fellow nigerians we have to take heart. after every thing nothing will happen, they will release the police man and post him far from lagos. nigerian police is d highest place u will find corruption. police who ar suppose to b our friend, now our enemy. let them go to dubai and see police men ar doing things

Posted by: onwa olisa nduoma , on Wednesday, June 16, 2010

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- The police force is at it again by cooking up story that the man fell and die. these so called leaders will never know peace as long as injustice prevail in nigeria. God almighty shall punish them one after the other.

Posted by: biodun afeni , on Wednesday, June 16, 2010

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- Police killings will stop when right calibre of staff are employed Having the right calibre starts from the level of education and training given. Minimum qualification should be Diploma and promotions should be very frequent otherwise the morale will fall and we shall be stuff with irresponbile, corrupt police officers parading our streets for bribes and where bribe is denied unnecessary shooting will follow.

Posted by: abimbola kumapayi , on Wednesday, June 16, 2010

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