

# Rep kicks as policemen kill 21-year-old in A'Ibom

John Ameh, Abuja

**P**OLICEMEN in Akwa-Ibom State on Thursday shot dead a 21-year-old girl in another case of alleged abuse of weapons and intimidation of defenceless people.

The girl, simply identified as Agnes, was reportedly killed in Oron Local Government Area of the state in the early hours of Thursday, "throwing the entire town into a state of mourning."

The member of the House of Representatives representing Oron Federal Constituency, Mr. Robison Uwak, who raised the alarm over the killing in Abuja, told journalists that the policemen had gone to the area to make an arrest, but resorted to shooting carelessly.

"Agnes, a 21-year-old lady living at 23B, Nduonyi Street, met with her untimely death when policemen who had come to make an arrest within the vicinity shot sporadically into the air, without recourse to the safety and sanctity of human life," the lawmaker stated.

Uwak, who demanded the overhaul of the Oron Police Area Command, recalled that the indigenes of the place were constantly harassed and intimidated by policemen.

Uwak said, "My people are calling for the total overhaul of Aron Police Command because they can no longer trust these men to guarantee their safety and that of their property."

"Their concerns are heightened by the fact that this time of the year is security-sensitive and the increased levels of police impunity will further worsen the security situation."

"We are asking that those involved in this heinous crime be investigated and publicly prosecuted so as to ensure that civility overcomes barbarism."

The lawmaker complained that rather than provide security for the people, policemen in Oron

Command were endangering their lives.

"We must state clearly here that we are by no means under the illusion that the attitude of policemen in the Oron Area Police Command towards the indigenes will change anytime soon."

"For a while now they have become like the military under orders of occupancy while the ordinary man is seen as the enemy to be spared or slain without any form of provocation," Uwak said.

The Commissioner of Police, Akwa Ibom State Command, Mr. Solomon

Arase, confirmed the incident when our correspondent contacted him on the telephone.

He said the policemen, who carried out the killing, had been arrested and would be dismissed on completion of investigation into the matter.

"The policemen are in custody and we will bring the full weight of the law against them."

"They will be tried and dismissed because the command has zero tolerance for corruption," the commissioner told **THE PUNCH**.

## Holland seeks EFCC's assistance o

Friday Olorok, Abuja

**H**OLLAND on Thursday in Abuja sought the assistance of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in the investigation of some fraud-related cases.

The Dutch Ambassador

to Nigeria, Mr. Bert Ronhaar, said this during a visit to the acting Chairman of the commission, Mr. Ibrahim Larmode.

A statement by the EFCC spokesman, Mr. Wilson Uwujaren, quoted Ronhaar as saying that Dutch government would be "seeking the intervention of the EFCC in the investigation of some organised crime cases."

The envoy congratulated Lamorde on his appointment, but lamented that the warm relationship between Netherlands Police and the EFCC went sour in the last few years.

He however assured of a renewed commitment to reviving existing links in the overall interest of both countries.

Konhaar promised to table before the Dutch government a request to support the EFCC with equipment and training programme to improve on its capacity in handling organised crimes.

He assured Lamorde that the EFCC officials would be accommodated in a capacity

## Dickson's rally grounds traffic in Bayelsa

Mike Odiegwu, Yenagoa

**A** rally organised on Thursday by supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party's candidate for the 2012 governorship election in Bayelsa State, Mr. Seriake Dickson, created traffic snarl in the state, especially in Yenagoa, the capital.

The assembly, which was organised by the Initiative for the Restoration of Bayelsa State and the New Nigerian Initiative for Development, attracted supporters of Dickson from the eight local government areas of the state.

While some travellers groaned under heavy traffic snarl, others who clamoured for a change in the administration of the state were seen dancing to

the rhythms of the campaign train.

The walk, which started at 8am from Igbogene, a suburb of Yenagoa, caused gridlock halting commercial activities temporarily along the dual carriageway leading to the state capital from Tombia Roundabout.

The supporters of Dickson who wore T-shirts with inscriptions such as 'Marching to Creek Heaven', stormed the road in a convoy of over 40 buses, cars and trucks and blocked one of the lanes.

The crowd chanted solidarity songs for their candidate as they distributed fliers and posters of Dickson and his running 'mate, Mr.

John Jonah, to onlookers.

The movement created tension in the oil-rich state leading to fears that the campaign train might clash with the supporters of the embattled Governor Timpre Sylva.

But our correspondent observed that the march which terminated at the campaign headquarters of Dickson along Isaac Boro Way was peaceful as it was done under high security surveillance.

No fewer than four Armoured Personnel Carriers, six patrol vans of armed policemen and a detachment of Air Force Mobility Command's operatives monitored the movement from morning till about 4pm when it ended.