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Family accuses police of killing suspect in custody

July 27, 2012 by Sunday Aborisade

The Okorobobi family of Okorobobi-ghini in the Ese-Odo

Local Government Area of Ondo State has petitioned Governor Olusegun Mimiko over the death of their son, Oweikimi Oweifa, in police custody.

The family in the petition dated July 20, with reference number TTC/P/049/2012, by their lawyer, Mr. Tope Temokun, alleged that their son was tortured to death by the police.

The petition, copies of which were sent to the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Danladi Mshebwala, and the Director of the State Security Services, among others, appealed to Mimiko to probe Oweifa's death.

According to the petition, Oweifa was arrested on June 23, 2012 by members of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad at Okitipupa, in connection with the kidnap of one Alhaji Abdullahi Tilde at Sabo Ore in the Odigbo Local Government Area of the state.

Oweifa and others, including Godspower Julius, Jeremiah Lawrence, Majemu Oyenye, and Allen Enakimi, were also accused of collecting N500,000 as ransom.

The suspects, according to the petition, were detained by SARS in Akure, while Oweifa was taken away to an unknown destination on arrival in the state capital on the same day.

The petition read in part, "That on July 13, 2012, the other four suspects were arraigned before the Chief Magistrates' Court 2, Akure, but Oweikinii Oweifa was nowhere to be found.

"The family members who came to the court to meet and to probably secure bail for their son curiously asked while he

was not charged to court with others with whom he was said to have conspired to carry out the alleged criminal act.

“He was said to have died in the course of investigation, in the hands of the Police, who even till now, had not officially declared to the family, access to his corpse.”

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Adeniran Aremu, said he was yet to be briefed on the development. He promised to investigate the case and get back to our correspondent as soon as possible.

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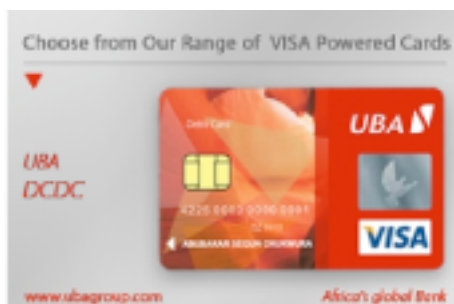
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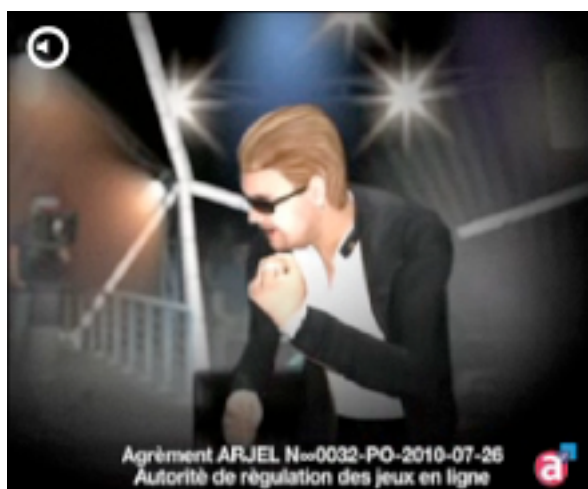
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