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Policemen on illegal duty kill foreigner, flee

APRIL 12, 2013 BY ENIOLA AKINKUOTU

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Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, Mr. Umar Manko

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There was confusion at Daleko Bus Stop along the Mushin-Isolo Expressway, Lagos, on Thursday after some men suspected to be policemen killed a foreigner in the traffic.

According to an eyewitness, the policemen, who boarded a commercial bus, shot the victim, Santos Korie, in his Toyota Highlander Sport Utility Vehicle before fleeing.

A traffic official, who spoke to our correspondent on the condition of anonymity, said the incident occurred during the market's weekly sanitation.

He said, "Around 7am, some policemen in a bus stopped beside a Toyota Highlander around Daleko Market and shot the occupant.

"The traffic was light at the time because market had not yet opened so they (policemen) were able to flee.

"The man bled profusely as people gathered around his vehicle. After some time, the Area Commander, Area D, Omololu Bishi, arrived with some other policemen and took the victim away."

Another eyewitness, who is a commercial motorcycle rider, said they initially chased the policemen, adding that they later abandoned the bus and escaped on motorcycles.

The witness said the policemen were in the habit of using commercial buses to carry out illegal arrests, but did not understand why the motorist was killed.

He said, "I know those policemen, they usually come here to arrest people at Daleko Junction. On Saturday, they arrested me and some others so when they came again today, I recognised them. Last week, they came in a bus which was driven by a tout popularly known as Sunday or Sylvester.

"After the shooting this morning, we chased the commercial bus but because the policemen were armed, we stayed at a distance so that we would not get shot. When the policemen encountered a bit of traffic, they jumped off from the bus and escaped on motorcycles.

"Fortunately, we were able to get the number plate of one of the motorcycles- QH 490 AKD- and we gave it to the police."

PUNCH Metro learnt that the victim died before getting to hospital while his vehicle was taken to Area D Command.

A police source told our correspondent that Sunday had been arrested and he confessed that he had gone with two policemen on illegal duty on Saturday.

He said, "Sunday confessed that he had gone for operation with one Idu and Ameh, who are both policemen. We have arrested the policemen and they have been transferred to Special Anti-Robbery Squad. We cannot say for now if they were the ones involved in today's incident.

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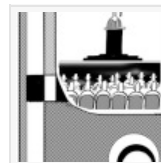


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The spokesperson for the state police command, Ngozi Braide, confirmed the incident.

Braide said in a statement that investigations were ongoing, adding that it was too soon to say if the assailants were actually policemen or impostors in police uniform.

She said arrests had been made and some suspects had been taken to SARS.

She said, "At about 7am, the Area Commander, Area 'D' Mushin, received a distress call that there was a shooting incident around Daleko Bridge, Mushin. Some policemen were immediately dispatched to the area but on arrival, the gun men had disappeared.

"On enquiry, eye witnesses clustering around told policemen that the gunmen were in police uniform and had operated in a commercial bus. The victim died on his way to the hospital.

"It was not immediately ascertained whether the gunmen were hired killers in police uniform or real police officers. Meanwhile, some arrests have been made and the suspects are currently being detained at the SARS for interrogation.

"It would be recalled that in recent time, gunmen operating in military and police uniforms have been involved in one violent crime or another and the Lagos State Command is not leaving any stone unturned in dealing decisively with any fake uniformed officer."

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What do you expect Ngozi Braide to say when an eye witness has confirmed that they are Policemen who comes to harrass people every thursday there is sanitation in the market and on Saturdays.

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