

metro

Stray bullet kills scrap dealer, groups demands justice



• Onyeogaziri
Photo: family

Chukwudi Akasike, Port Harcourt

A STRAY bullet from the gun of a policeman attached to the Rivers State Police Command has killed a scrap dealer, Mr. Chima Onyeogaziri, at Eleme Junction in Port Harcourt.

Six days after the incident, members of the Mbano Brothers' Youth Association and Scrap Dealers Association have called on the police authorities to fish out the killer cop and prosecute him.

Onyeogazi, 30, was hit on the forehead by the stray bullet fired by the policeman, identified as Mohammed Yahaya.

It was leant that trouble started when a truck loaded with iron scraps was blocked by a police Hilux van while trying to enter a scrap market at Eleme Junction.

It was said that three policemen jumped out of the Hilux van and demanded the receipt for the items in the truck.

Chairman of the Scrap Dealers' Association, Port Harcourt branch, Mr. Uche Onyegbule, told *PUNCH Metro* on Tuesday that though the receipt for the items was shown to the policemen, they insisted that the truck must follow them to the station.

Onyegbule said the truck driver, identified as Louis John, wanted to park the heavy duty vehicle by the side of the road, adding that the action drew Yahaya's ire and he started shooting sporadically.

He said while the driver of the truck was injured, a stray bullet hit Onyeogaziri on the forehead while he was taking his lunch.

"The policemen soon fled the scene, while the driver and Onyeogaziri were rushed to the hospital. Onyeogaziri

died after losing too much blood.

"Onyeogaziri's killer must be arrested and brought to book. The police that killed our brother must be punished. All we are asking for is justice," Onyegbule added.

He lamented that when the association's members went to the station in the area, the Divisional Police Officer told them (members of the union) that the man, who was responsible for the tragedy, was on the run, while other policemen in the patrol van had been locked up.

Also, the President of Mbano Brothers' Youth Association, Mr. Ignatius Unachukwu, said, "We don't want the matter to be swept under the carpet. If the policemen did not run away after the incident and rushed Chima to the hospital, he would not have died."

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ahmad Mohammad, said he was not aware that Yahaya was on the run, adding that members of the patrol team had been arrested.

He said, "I am not aware that Yahaya is on the run. All I know is that the policemen that were in that patrol were all arrested and investigation is going on. Justice will be done in the matter."

Herb seller seven-mon

Etim Ekpimah, Uyo

A HERB seller has been arrested by the Akwa Ibom State police over the theft of a seven-month old baby boy - Feargod Edemekong.

The suspect, Ukat Aran, aka Dr. Job, was arrested in Afia Nsit Atai, Nsit Ibium Local Government Area of the state.

The mother of the baby, Mrs. Mfreke Edemekong, said on Tuesday in Uyo that Aran came to sell some herbal medicines to her husband's uncle, Mr. Effiong Akpan, a day before her child was stolen.

Mfreke said, "Last Thursday, around 5am, a four-man gang broke into

our house. One of them hit my husband, E. Edemekong, on the crotch with the butt of his gun.

She said two of the members entered their room while one stood outside with a gun ready to fire. She added that the last member was the driver.

She said the two members who went inside the room snatched Feargod, while pointing guns at her and her husband.

"As the men took my child away, they also forced me to escort them to the car. It was then that I saw that the driver was the herb seller who had called at our home the previous day to sell herbs to Akpan."

Mfreke, who said her e

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• The building

Eniola Akinkuot

B THE police in have commenced investigation into the gruesome murder of a