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Policeman in court for killing bike dealer

FEBRUARY 18, 2014 BY SAMSON FOLARIN 1 COMMENT

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A 54-year-old police officer, Felix Ugolo, has been arraigned before an Ebute Meta Magistrate's Court for allegedly killing a motorcycle dealer, Sunday Okoli, by pushing him out of a moving vehicle. Ugolo was said to be among a team of five policemen when the incident occurred.

PUNCH Metro had reported on July 6, 2012 that Okoli, who resided on Alimi Ayina Street, off Chemist Bus Stop in Iba New Town, Lagos, was on his way from a filling station with his brother.

The policemen were said to have stopped them and demanded the identity card of the

victim for riding an unregistered bike.

The deceased was said to have produced his identity card, and explained he was a bike dealer and that the motorcycle was for sale.

The victim's wife, Biele, had alleged that the cops, not satisfied with Okoli's explanation, had demanded a bribe of N5,000, which her husband did not have.

The motorcycle was then reportedly seized and driven by another policeman to the station at Ishashi, while the victim was put at the back of the truck.

Upset that Okoli could not meet their demands, the policemen allegedly pushed him from the back of the truck. He was said to have later died at the Igando General Hospital.

The incident reportedly generated chaos as angry residents took the victim's corpse to the station. The police authorities had promised that justice would be served.

Subsequently, in May 2013, one of the policemen Gaius Asogwa, who was at the back of the truck, was arraigned for murder. Ugolo, a former police inspector who drove the truck from which the deceased fell and died, was also demoted to a constable until his arraignment recently.

However, his defence counsel, Mr. E.O Erakpotobor, wondered why it took six months before Ugolo was brought to court.

He said, "It is an abuse of the fundamental human rights of my client, if the Directorate for Public Prosecution's advice which has been out since August 31, 2013, says he has a case to answer. We question why it should take another five to six months for him to be arraigned. How long will his fundamental human rights be abused?"

He asked that Ugolo be given bail. The police prosecutor, Inspector Richard Odigie said he did not have any



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idea why the defendant was just being brought to court.

"I am just seeing him for the first time, and it is today that the police brought his remand application. I don't know why he was not arraigned with the other policeman," he said.

The magistrate, Ms S.O Solebo, in line with Section 264(5) of the Administration of Criminal Justice, Lagos State, 2011, admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of N200,000 with two sureties in like sum.

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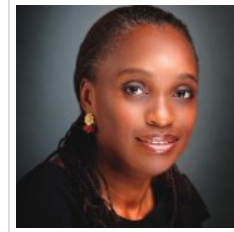
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