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Ogun CP petitioned over teenager set ablaze

FEBRUARY 25, 2015 BY OLALEYE ALUKO ■ 0 COMMENTS

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Shittu

The family of Emmanuel Ezekiel, a teenager who was allegedly set ablaze by a bar manager for theft, has petitioned the Commissioner of Police, Ogun State Police Command, Valentine Ntomchukwu, requesting that justice be done on the matter.

PUNCH Metro had reported on February 13, that the manager, Bidemi Shittu, allegedly poured petrol on Emmanuel, a 13-year-old attendant and set him ablaze, for stealing N1, 500 after which the teenager was rushed to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, Lagos, where he died five days later.

It had been reported that the police were searching for Shittu, who had, since the day of incident, gone into hiding.

It was learnt that the case, which was reported to the Ibafo Police Division, had been transferred to the state headquarters in Abeokuta.

In the petition obtained by our correspondent and written by the family lawyer, Vincent Ogunmola, the family said the police should ensure that the matter was not swept under the carpet, adding that a policeman in the Ibafo division had aided the suspect to go into hiding.

Ogunmola said, "We urge you to consider a thorough investigation to get justice on the murder of Emmanuel, who is the family's only son. We also request that the police would ensure the immediate arrest of Bidemi Shittu for murder, and that a corporal in Ibafo division, Corporal Festus Ayodele, be made to produce the suspect as he holds the key to the suspect's whereabouts.

"We are informed that the suspect and his family have tried to portray the incident as an accident claiming that Ezekiel was a victim of generator accident, which is a lie and an attempt to shield their act from the police.

"We therefore pray that the police would investigate and ensure justice in this matter."

The Police spokesperson, DSP Muiwa Adejobi, said the police were still working to find the suspect's location, adding that the suspect's father, who was an executive of the Police Community Relations Committee, had been suspended to produce his son.

He said, "We are still on the trail of the suspect and we promise that we will get him. The allegation that a policeman is shielding him is immaterial. Why would a policeman do that?

"The suspect's father, who is a member of the PCRC in Ibafo has been suspended for six months on this matter and he has been asked to produce his son. We are intensifying efforts and following procedures to ensure that the suspect is arrested."

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