

Witnesses want justice for driver killed by policeman

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Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fatai Owoseni

Afeez Hanafi and Opeyemi Soyoye

Witnesses of the alleged killing of a commercial driver at Adetokunbo Ademola bus stop, on the Lekki-Epe Expressway have asked the police to fish out the trigger-happy cop.

But the Lagos State Police Command described the information that the driver was killed by a policeman as false, saying the case was under investigation to ascertain what led to his death.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the driver was heading towards Lekki at about 3pm on Friday when a police team flagged him down around a toll gate in the area, but he refused to stop.

A policeman reportedly chased the driver with a motorcycle, caught up with him at a bank near the bus stop, and shot him in the head.

Our correspondent gathered that the policeman fled the scene afterwards.

A security man at an event centre in the area, who identified himself simply as Innocent, said although he did not know what transpired between the commercial driver and the police officer, he saw the victim.

He said, "I was coming from Eko Hotel, when I saw a bus parked at Adetokunbo Ademola bus stop with a lot of people gathered around it. I moved closer and saw the driver in a pool of blood. He was shot by one of the policemen on patrol. The policeman chased him with a motorcycle because the driver didn't obey him."

A resident of the area, who identified himself as Shedrach Iorlumon, said the incident was shocking.

He said, "I was around Diamond Bank when I heard the gunshot. I saw that a *danfo* driver was shot by a policeman. The driver did not stop until he got to the front of First City Monument Bank. A woman, who said she was a passenger in the bus, said the policeman shot the driver because he did not stop at the toll gate as he was ordered to. The culprit must be found."

A security guard, who wants to be anonymous, said the incident resulted in a multiple accident as the driver struggled to stop the bus after he had been shot.

"The policeman was in uniform and had a gun with him. He was able to catch up with the *danfo* driver because there was traffic. He shot the driver in the head. The driver kept driving, and rammed into cars. About five to six cars were involved in the

accident. The driver eventually stopped in front of the FCMB. The policeman that shot him still followed him to the FCMB, but fled after noticing that the man was dead.”

The Police Public Relations Officer in Lagos, SP Dolapo Badmos, in a text message, confirmed that the driver was shot in the head, but maintained that no policeman was culpable.

“That report is false. It is an insinuation. Meanwhile, the command is investigating the case of a bus driver who rammed into three vehicles before it came to a halt. He was later found with a bullet wound in his head. The command will get to the root of the matter to ascertain what actually transpired,” the PPRO said.