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Family buries slain cop as police await panel report

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Police IG Ibrahim Kpotun Idris.

Mudiaga Affe and Etim Ekpimah

Tears flowed ceaselessly on Saturday in Akwa Ibom State as the remains of a police corporal, Davis Odudu, were interred at Akamba Nsukara Offot Cemetery, Uyo.

Odudu was allegedly shot alongside his colleague, Corporal Emmanuel Mbang, by some naval ratings on May 30, 2017 after a misunderstanding between them and a police traffic warden. Odudu was a station guard at the Akim Police Station on IBB Way in Calabar.

Odudu's colleagues refused to speak with *SUNDAY PUNCH*, saying they were specifically instructed to bring his corpse to Uyo from Cross River State for burial.

The deceased's father, Monday Udo, told one of our correspondents that only God would avenge the death of his son. He said out of his nine children — five males and four

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The father, who is blind, said the family depended on Odudu for their livelihood. The late policeman's mother, Mrs. Ime Davis, called on the state government to come to their aid. The mother who said she took ill after the demise of her last son, Samuel, said she was told of Odudu's death on Friday. She said since the government had taken her son away from her, it should be responsible for their upkeep.

The deceased's wife, Mrs. Etido Odudu, said, "I pray God to accept his soul and grant him eternal rest. The police have been supportive so far. He had a good relationship with his colleagues while he was alive."

Also, authorities of the state police command expressed fear over possible cover-up by the panel of inquiry set up by the defence headquarters to look into the cause of the navy/police clash that claimed the lives of the two policemen and left others injured.

After the incident, the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Gabriel Olonisakin, set up the panel headed by Air Vice-Marshal Bernard Chiobi, to investigate the matter. But three months after the panel concluded its sitting, the report had yet to be made public.

The Cross River State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hafiz Inuwa, said, "We are still waiting the outcome of the report. We are waiting to see if the video coverage and testimonies of various witnesses that were called will be tinkered with or not.

"Even the Inspector General of Police does not have an insight on what is contained in that report. Why is this whole thing shrouded in secrecy?" he said.

The Director of Information, Nigerian Navy, Navy Captain Suleman Dahun, three months ago said the investigation on the matter would be made public as soon as the panel completed its report.

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