## Customs officers kill motorcyclist while chasing smugglers

Tunji Bosun, Abeokuta

Bullet allegedly fired by men of the Ogun State Command of the Nigeria Customs Service on Friday, killed a 35-year-old man, Samson Olabisi, at Ipokia Roundabout, Ipokia Local Government Area of the state.

The deceased, a wood seller, was reported to be riding a motorcycle, heading towards Tube, a neighbouring community in Ipokia, when he was hit by the stray bullet.

The Customs officers had reportedly fired at some suspected rice smugglers they were chasing.

An eyewitness told Saturday PUNCH that Olabisi was shot when the Customs operatives invaded the area and started shooting indiscriminately, while



•Customs' CG, Col. Hameed Ali (retd.)

searching for the smugglers.

The source said the Customs

operatives took Olabisi to the General Hospital in Idi-Iroko, where he was confirmed dead.

He added that the operatives were in mufti and operated in a private car without number plate.

Our correspondent gathered that the deceased had five children, who were said to be in primary school.

"Residents of the area identified one of the Customs officers as Bayo," the source added.

The Public Relations Officer of the NCS in the state, Abdullah Maiwada, confirmed the incident.

Maiwada said, "Yes. An incident occurred this morning in Ipokia. Investigation is ongoing to gather facts on what actually happened. I will brief you as soon as the information becomes available to me."