

# Police sergeant allegedly murders 23-year-old man in Abia

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Acting Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu

Sunday Nwakanma, Umuahia

The Ibeku community in Afaraukwu, Umuahia, Abia State, was on Monday thrown into mourning following the alleged murder of a 23-year-old man by a police sergeant.

As a result of the incident, Afaraukwu youths, on Tuesday, staged a peaceful protest around Umuahia to protest the killing.

The killing was said to have happened around 10pm shortly after the Nigeria versus Senegal Under-20 World Cup match.

Narrating what happened, the leader of the protesters and chairman of the youth in the community, Alozie Irokansi, said the victim, Chukwudike Onuoha, was in company with his friends in a Toyota Camry car when they met another vehicle with its head lamps fully on.

Chukwudike, according to him, asked the driver of the other vehicle to dim the light of his vehicle in order to enable their car to drive across a culvert, only to discover that the police officer driving the vehicle was Sergeant Collins Apugo, a tenant in Afaraukwu.

Irokansi stated that it was at that point that the police officer allegedly pulled out his gun and shot Chukwudike in the arm and the victim ran away crying for help.

“Chukwudike fell to the ground while running and the police officer allegedly came over and shot him in the chest and he died instantly. After this, the officer abandoned the police van and ran away. Irrate youths later burnt the van,” he added.

A youth leader in the community, Ifeanyi Uwalaka, alleged that the same police officer had last week Tuesday chased a man to his shop in the area and threatened to shoot him (Uwalaka) when he intervened.

Uwalaka described Onuoha as his cousin and a talented footballer.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the community, Chukwudi Eleziwe, condemned the murder of Onuoha and called on government at all levels and the police authority to intervene in the matter.

It was gathered that the victim’s corpse had been deposited in the morgue of the Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Geoffrey Ogbonna, confirmed the incident, stating that the Commissioner of Police, Eneh Okon, had already stepped into the matter and had set up a panel to ensure that justice was served.

According to the PPRO, the CP has also sent a delegation to the family of the victim