

Edo family demands N50m compensation, apology for son's murder

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• Ibrahim

Adeyinka Adedipe, Benin

The family of Ibrahim Momodu has petitioned the Chairman of the Edo State Judicial Panel of Inquiry on the #EndSARS protest, Justice Ada Ehigiamusoe (retd.), over the alleged murder of their son by policemen in 2013.

It is demanding the urgent invitation, investigation and prosecution of one Mrs Carol Afegbai, a Chief Superintendent of Police, and others at large for the alleged murder.

The Momodu family, in a petition through its lawyer, Jefferson Uwoghiren, dated October 27, 2020, a copy of which was made available to journalists on Monday,

urged the panel to invite Afegbai and others still at large for alleged complicity and conspiracy to murder, obstruction of justice and conduct prejudicial to public peace.

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It is also asking for N50m compensation for loss of affection, emotional distress and grave injustice done to it by “agents of government sworn to protect lives and properties.”

The petition stated that the alleged criminal complicity of Afegbai, the former Divisional Police Officer, Ogida Police Division, Siluko Road, Benin City, and others “had caused our client untold emotional distress, loss of affection and grave injustice.”

Uwoghiren explained that on May 27, 2013, at Obayuwana junction on the Siluko Road, Benin City, one Mr Amadin Idahosa, a Corporal with the Nigeria Police and orderly to the then CSP Carol Afegbai, DPO, Ogida Police Station, around 7pm, without provocation and legal justification, illegally and wrongly shot and killed Ibrahim.

The police “subsequently in attempts to cover up, buried the said Mr Ibrahim Momodu in a shallow grave in a public cemetery in Benin City.”

Uwoghiren appealed to the panel chairman to “invite, demand, request and clarify from Mrs Carol Afegbai the immediate steps she took to arrest and abate the callous killing by her orderly right in her presence as a senior law enforcement officer paid with taxpayers’ money to protect lives and properties.”

He also requested the panel to find out from the former DPO and others “whose initiative it was to attempt to mislead Nigerians with the provision of a Q-Link motorcycle purporting it to belong to the late Mr Ibrahim Momodu and whose initiative it was to attempt to mislead Nigerians with the provision of a cut-to-size Russian-made barrel gun and five live cartridges alleged to belong to the late

Momodu, when in fact from evidence, it was a planted gun to destroy the image of Mr Ibrahim Momodu.”

Uwoghiren also demanded a public apology from the Nigeria Police Force for defaming the parents of the deceased as armed robbers and criminals as well as renaming the administrative block at Ogida police station after Ibrahim.

He added, “We further demand the renaming of the adjoining road to the Ogida Police Station as Ibrahim Momodu Street by the police authority.

“We demand the arrest and prosecution of all police officers, who were and present during the killing of Mr Ibrahim Momodu for complicity in his murder.

“On the 5th of June 2013, on the order of the court, the body of Ibrahim Momodu was exhumed from a shallow grave at the Third Cemetery, New Benin, Benin City, for autopsy.

“The result of the autopsy showed that Ibrahim was shot in the chest, lacerating his heart and embarrassed by the circumstances of the killing, the police arrested Mr Amadin Idahosa, subjected him to orderly room trial, dismissed him from the force and charged him for murder in charge No. B/CD/24C/2014.

“At the close of trial, Justice R. Irele-Ifijeh, in 2016 found Amadin Idahosa guilty of manslaughter in the unprovoked and illegal killing of Ibrahim Momodu and sentenced

him to life imprisonment.”

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