

Gbajabiamila doles out cash, security aide

Adelani Adepegha and
Leke Baiyewu

Gbajabiamila, has allegedly
shot a newspaper vendor in
the head.

The incident, which
occurred at the Federal
Secretariat, Abuja, around

noon on Thursday, caused
panic in the area.
The victim, identified
as Ifeanyi Okereke, was
subsequently rushed to the
National Hospital by his
brother and some police
officers, where he reportedly
died.

PUNCH Metro learnt that
the shooting happened when
Okereke and other street
vendors selling on the Shehu
Shagari Way, Three Arms
Zone, flocked around the
convoy of the Speaker, who
was said to be in the habit of
giving out money anytime
he passed them.

The Chairman of the
Newspapers Vendors
Association in FCT,
Etim Eteng, told one
of our correspondents
that Okereke died at the
National Hospital shortly
after the incident, adding
that his wife gave birth to a
baby on Thursday morning.

"What I learnt was that



• Gbajabiamila

the Speaker called to give
them (vendors) money
and the security aide just
shot him in the head. He
was rushed to the National
Hospital where he died

some hours later," he said
on the phone.

A vendor, Abdullahi
Seidu, said the unidentified
trigger-happy security
aide could not explain why

he shot the deceased when
confronted by Gbajabiamila.
Seidu stated, "The
vendors and other hawkers
usually run after VIPs and
lawmakers whenever they

A security aide to the
Speaker, House of
Representatives, Femi

Rivers councillor. Three others arrested
for allegedly battering housewife



• Blackson
Dennis Naku, Port
Harcourt

THE Rivers State Police
Command said it had
detained three more
persons in connection with
the assault on a mother of
six, Love Nwanyanwu, in
the Etche Local Government
Area of the state.

Love, 46, last Monday
raised the alarm over the
alleged assault and threat to
her life by the leader of the
Etche legislative assembly,
Blackson Nwanyanwu,
and some members of her
husband's family when she
visited the village.

She later reported the
matter to the police.

A spokesman for the police
command, Nnamdi Omonu,
told PUNCH Metro that the
councillor was invited to the
station to answer to the
allegations and was detained.

On the latest arrests,
Omonu said three persons
mentioned by the victim,
including the councillor's
elder sister, were detained
after they admitted to taking
part in the assault.

He said the prime suspect,
Blackson, had been granted

• Love
bail.
Omonu said, "The
prime suspect, Blackson
Nwanyanwu, was invited
through his chairman. We
recorded his statement. Of
course he did not accept full
responsibility for the assault
on the woman, but pushed it
to the elder sister."

"So, today, all the parties
came to the office here and I
have taken time to interview
them one after the other.
From what I heard from
them, they all conspired and
inflicted the injuries on the
woman, which are fatal."

"Again, investigation is
ongoing, at the end of which
the law will take its course.
Meanwhile, the honourable's
bail is subsisting. The other
ones are going to remain with
us for further interrogation."

Those detained are
Blackson's younger brother,
Chikwudi Nwanyanwu;
his elder sister, Gladys
Nwanyanwu; and Gladys'
daughter, Ruth Amadi.

Meanwhile, Blackson has
denied directly assaulting
his brother's wife, saying he
only intervened in a quarrel
among the women in their
family house.

N450,000 bill: Husband flees in Anambra hospital

Tony Okafor, Awka

A man, Sunday
Odinaka, has
reportedly
abandoned his wife, Evelyn,
after she was delivered of a
set of triplets in a private
hospital in Okpoko, in the
Ogburu Local Government
Area of Anambra State.

Sunday, a native of
Ubarakwem, in the Ihiala
LGA of the state, was said
to have fled his residence
on Obodoukwu Road
following his inability to
meet up with the hospital
bill of over N450,000.

A source said, "Before the



• Sunday



• The triplets

birth of the triplets -- two
boys and a girl -- the couple

had four kids. They were
compelled to withdraw

their children from school
due to financial problems.

Narrating her ordeal to
journalists on Thursday at
the hospital, Evelyn, a petty
trader, said her husband,
who had expected only a
baby from the pregnancy,
disappeared after telling her
the hospital management
he was going to bring the
money.

She said, "Before I gave
birth to the triplets, there
was nothing in the house
to eat. I sell sachet water
and my husband has no
job. Sometimes, he will
do some menial jobs from
which we eat."

"We have been living
from hand to mouth since
the arrival of the triplets
and the trouble became

PUNCH

Company worker defrauds employer of N11m

Oluwatosin Omojuyigbe

A company worker, Ibrahim Ali, has been
arrested by the Economic and Financial
Crimes Commission for allegedly
defrauding his employer of over N11m.

It was gathered that Ali paid monthly
salaries into different bank accounts operated
by him to the tune of N11,187,619.

The EFCC, in a statement signed by its Head
of Media and Publicity, Wilson Uwajaren, on
Thursday, said Ali tendered his resignation

letter and fled with documents that
the company when the fraud was discovered.

The anti-graft agency on
arraigned Ali on six counts of
money laundering before Justice I.
the Federal High Court, Kano.

He pleaded not guilty to the
charges. In view of his plea, the
counsel, Babatomi Balogun, asked for

kills beneficiary

see them. In fact, they can
identify the big men by their
vehicles. So, the vendors
flocked around the Speaker's
convoy and he gave them
some money, but a gunshot
just went off.

"The bullet hit Ifeanyi
(Okereke) in the head and
he fell down. The officer
who fired the gun said he
wanted to fire in the air."

The National Hospital
spokesman, Dr Tayo
Haastrup, confirmed that
Okereke died of gunshot
injuries.

"He died of gunshot
injuries and would be
moved from the Trauma
Centre to the mortuary
shortly," he said.

Gbajabiamila could not be
reached for comments on the
incident.

Repeated calls made to his
Special Adviser on Media
and Publicity, Lanre Lasisi,
rang out.

He had yet to reply to an

SMS seeking his principal's
reaction as of press time.
The Federal Capital
Territory

EFCC arrests Amaechi's former aide, wife in Rivers

Dennis Naku, Port
Harcourt

ARMED operatives
suspected to be
from the Economic
and Financial Crimes
Commission on Thursday
invaded the Port Harcourt
residence of Okey Okirie,
a former Special Adviser
on Strategy and Statistics
to the immediate past
Governor of Rivers State,
Rotimi Amaechi.

The operatives, in a viral
video believed to have
emanated from Okirie,
could be seen exchanging
words with the suspect
and his wife.

One of the operatives,
believed to be the leader of

the team, while answering
a call said, "He is inside
his house sir."
Another operative,
who wore a blue T-shirt
with white stripes and a
customised face mask,
peeped into the house
after they gained entrance
into the compound.

Worried that Okirie
locked up himself and
refused to allow them
into the house, one of the
operatives said even if it
took a week, they would
remain at the house.

Another operative,
while responding to
enquiries from a female
voice believed to be
Okirie's wife, said, "We
are from EFCC office."

Police arrest se Lagos task fore

Oluwatosin Omojuyigbe

THE Lagos State Police
Command said it had
arrested seven suspects

over the
the Lagos
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Another member of
the team said, "You have
defrauded somebody
money, they are telling
you to come and answer
your own side."

But Okirie's wife
retorted, "You are just
saying default when you
never asked. That is why
you are hostile, just as
the official accused the
woman of hiding her
husband whom he alleged
committed a crime."

Okirie immediately cut
in and said, "You don't
even know the story."

Our correspondent
learnt that the operatives
later succeeded in making
their way into Okirie's
apartment and taking him
and his wife away.

The Head of Media and
Publicity of EFCC, Wilson
Uwajaren, confirmed the
arrest, adding that it was
in connection with a bank
loan.

He said, "Yes, I am
aware of one Okirie that
was arrested. I don't know
of his wife. It has to do
with a bank loan."

The Anambra State
Chairman of the Civil
Liberties Organisation,
Vincent Ezekwue, said
the family was in dire need
of financial assistance
not only for settling the
hospital bill, but feeding
the babies.

He appealed for a job for
Sunday to enable him to
send for his family.

abandons wife, triplets

worse. My husband has
been complaining about
how to afford the hospital
bill even before I gave
birth, believing I will
deliver just one baby.

"But on sighting three of
them, coupled with the four
kids that are not adequately
fed, he abandoned us for
two weeks now. Worse
still, he has no phone for
us to call."

"I am sure the N450,000
bill he was asked to pay
due to the complication I
had was the major reason
he abandoned us."

"My daughter that I
submitted a petition to

usually send home to get
hot water for hatching the
triplets said she has not set
her eyes on her father."

"My daughter said
somebody told her that
her father swore never to
return until he was sure
the hospital bill had been
settled."

Evelyn said she had
raised N50,000 from
friends and well-wishers
and appealed to the wife of
the state Governor, Chief
Ebelechukwu Obiano, to
come to her rescue.

"Before my husband fled,
he submitted a petition to

the office of the first lady
and the commissioner
for women and children
welfare that I gave birth
to triplets and needed
help, but no response," she
added.

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Cyber scam: Police arrest three, uncover 50,000 email accounts

Adelani Adepegha, Abuja

THE Nigeria Police Force
has arrested three suspects
in connection with a cyber scam
operation that saw the
uncovering of 50,000 email
accounts.

Family of slain Kogi PDP woman leader demands compensation