

Undergraduate killing: Senate asks police to pay family N10m

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Chinedu Obi

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THE Senate on Tuesday accused the Nigeria Police Force of extrajudicial killing involving a final year student of the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Chinedu Obi.

It asked the police to pay the family of the murdered undergraduate N10m.

The late Obi was arrested on July 19, 2019 after a disagreement with a phone seller, who accused him of assaulting her.

He died in a controversial circumstance in the custody of the police, who denied him access to his family and medicare.

The lawyer to the family, Omemiroro Ogedegbe, in a petition to the Senate, said Chinedu Obi had gone to Otta, Ogun State, to visit his friend when he met his untimely death.

While testifying before the Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petition, Ogedegbe had said the deceased did not resist arrest contrary to a claim by the police.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ogbadu Aliyu, in his presentation to the panel, had also claimed that the deceased was arrested, detained and later granted bail.

Aliyu said, “After his release, he went back to the woman and started beating her and even tried to throw her down from a storey building.”

He said when Obi was rearrested, he became violent and tried to demobilise an officer, who shot him on his buttock instead of one his legs that he aimed.

But Ogedegbe, who countered the presentation, said, “The men of the police lied as the victim neither committed a capital offence, resisted arrest nor was he armed at the point of his arrest,” he added.

In the report presented to the plenary, the chairman of the Senate Committee, Senator Ayo Akinyelure observed that the offence of assault alleged by the phone seller was not a capital offence and should not have led to the suspect being handcuffed.

“The men of the NPF did not handle the matter professionally and therefore, the force is culpable for the death of Obi,” Akinyelure said.

The Senate directed the police to liaise with the family of late Obi in order to assist the family foot the bills of his burial and mandated the NPF to pay N10m as compensation to the family of the late Obi to mitigate the pains of his demise.

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