

# Policeman shoots

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

**T**HE Increasing dispute between a construction company, Julius Berger, and some of its Rivers State workers took a tragic turn on Monday when a policeman allegedly opened fire on the protesting workers, leaving one dead and four others injured.

The workers, while demanding justice for the victim, identified as Samuel Ajayi, claimed that the killer cop was attached to the Bori Police Division of the state police command.

The protesters, who met with the Chairman of the Gokana Local Government Area of the state on Tuesday, said the late Ajayi was among persons shot when they went to the council secretariat on a peaceful protest over the ill-treatment meted out to them by the construction



Scene of the incident

company. One of the workers, Moses Oniran, said, "After they (policemen) stopped us from

gaining access to the company's premises yesterday (Monday), we thought it necessary to go to the council secretariat to lodge

100 around 5pm.

# protesting Julius Berger worker dead in Rivers



Rivers CP, Friday Eboka

our complaint.

"In the process of going to the council, the policemen followed us. On getting to the secretariat, the chairman was not in the office, but we were received by

his secretary, who addressed us and we left.

"At the point of going out of the council premises, we were attacked by these policemen and the Chief Security Officer of Julius Berger.

"The Divisional Police Officer of Bori Police Station shot at us and injured about five persons.

"We are calling on the Federal Government, the Rivers State Government, the chairman of Gokana LGA, and other stakeholders to come to our aid."

A cousin of the deceased, Dominic Adeyemi, said his family was in deep pain.

Adeyemi noted that the late Ajayi had five children, adding that he was the breadwinner of the family and had many people

that he catered for.

"Yesterday, I did not see any of them (Julius Berger and police). On top of it, I was manhandled. They tried to dispossess me of the documents I used to deposit his corpse in a mortuary," he added.

The Chairman of Gokana LGA, Confidence Deekor, called on the state police command to carry out a proper investigation into the matter.

He promised to meet the management of Julius Berger and the workers in order to resolve the crisis.

The Bori Divisional Police Officer, Bako Angbashim, denied shooting at the protesters.

"Maybe shooting from somewhere hit someone because there are cult activities in that

area.

"So if bullets from cultists hit someone, then because I am popular in the whole of Ogoni land for bringing peace there, some people want to use this opportunity to spoil my good name? This is what you press people should also try to investigate," the DPO added.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Nnamdi Omoni, neither answered calls put across to his phone nor replied to a text message sent to him as of the time of filing this report.

An official of the company, who did not want his name in print, said Julius Berger placed premium on the safety of its workers, describing the incident as unfortunate.

defrauded by 'soldier' week after

soldier.

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