

Cop kills man celebrating birthday in Delta hotel

GODFREY GEORGE and
OCHEI MATTHEW

AN unidentified cop attached to the Delta State Police Command on Friday allegedly shot dead a 29-year-old father identified only as Gift in Obinomba in the Ukwani Local Government of the state.

Eyewitnesses who spoke to *Sunday PUNCH*, said the man was celebrating his birthday with a few friends at a hotel in Obinomba when the incident occurred.

One of them who gave his name only as Chidi said, "The young man was having his birthday at a hotel along Obinomba and the police raided the hotel for reasons best known to them. In the course of the raid, an argument ensued between the host and the police. The young man begged them not to ruin his party. As he made to step out, a cop with whom he earlier had an argument, shot him.

"The young man fell and fainted. He was rushed by the police to a private hospital in Obiaruku where he was confirmed dead on arrival."

Another eyewitness who spoke on condition of anonymity told our

•He acted in self-defence—Police

correspondent that deceased was a father of a four-month-old baby. The development made youths in the community to protest on Friday and policemen put a barricade at the Sapele-Agbor Expressway.

"The man was a young father of a baby who is not up for four months. We protested last night till about midnight when the council chairman came and calmed the situation. He also visited the family of the victim. But the policemen refused to listen to his plea to open the road. They only did so this morning. The police are fond of this kind of act. The cop who committed the act must be dismissed. We want justice."

When contacted, the state police spokesperson, DSP Bright Edafe, said the cop acted in self-defence as he was about to be dispossessed



•Delta CP, Muhammed Ali

of his rifle by youths in the community.

He added that he was only aware of a cult clash in the area and not a birthday party.

Edafe stated, "It was done in self-defence and I am going to explain what I mean by that. At a few minutes past 9pm on Friday, the Divisional Police Officer of Obiaruku Division got information that there was

a cult clash in Obinomba Village, Ukwani LGA, and that boys from a rival cult group had shot a man dead. They (the police) went there and saw the man in a pool of blood and carried him in their van. On their way to the hospital, they saw some boys, numbering about 50 who gathered outside. One of the inspectors alighted and asked them what the

problem was. The boys, in their usual manner, accosted the police inspector who was bearing an AK-47 rifle and they gagged him, trying to dispossess him of his arms. The men who were with him fired and one of the bullets got to a young man in his laps and others fled.

"The police took both the man who was shot during a cult clash and the injured man to a hospital, but unfortunately both of them were confirmed dead by the doctors on duty."

Ogun banks shut over robbers' threat, ignore police assurance

DAUD OLATUNJI

DESPITE police guaranteeing their safety, commercial banks in the Ijebu-Ode area of Ogun State have refused to open for business over fear of attack by robbers.

Our correspondent gathered that the banks have shut down since Monday following letters allegedly sent to some of them by suspected robbers.

It was gathered that the banks insisted on closing their branches except the state government assisted the police with armoured personnel carriers to be mounted close to their branches.

Some residents of Ijebu-Ode, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said many had been travelling to places such as Sagamu, Abeokuta and others to deposit or withdraw money.

An unidentified point-of-sale operator lamented that the development "portends great danger" for him and others in the business in Ijebu-Ode.

The operator said, "We withdraw money from banks to pay our customers and we also deposit in the bank when we have large sums of money with

been going to Sagamu to make withdrawals. It is bad."

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Abimbola Oyeyemi, who confirmed the development, said the bankers were only entertaining fear "where there is none."

He said, "I don't see any reason for that action. Honestly, there is no reason for it at all. The police called them and assured them of their safety. The police are posted everywhere. They saw the presence of the police. They are claiming that the armoured personnel carrier (stationed) there is faulty."

"Even if it has a fault, is it not the police that will still operate it? And it is the same police that said 'no problem, open your shops, you don't have any problem as far as security is concerned.' But I don't know the motive behind it. All the DPOs in the Ijebu area

Task force men chase okada rider to death on Lagos highway

AFEEZ HANAFI

AN unidentified commercial motorcyclist popularly known as okada rider has been reportedly crushed to death by a vehicle at Ikeja Along on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

The ride was allegedly running away from officials of the Lagos State Environmental and Special

Offences Unit (task force), who raided the spot on Saturday morning when he met his death.

Sunday PUNCH learnt that the men stormed the area around 11am to enforce the ban of okada on the highway and other restricted routes in the state.

The deceased's co-riders were said to have gone on the rampage and made a bonfire on the road, creating gridlock on the busy expressway. It was gathered that it took a reinforcement of policemen

men came around 11am to seize motorcycles. The okada riders made frantic efforts to evade arrest and the officials chased after them. One of them caught up with the victim and they were both struggling with the motorcycle.

"He pushed the rider from the bike and he landed on the path of a speeding bus which hit him. He bled from the head and died on the spot. The officials left the spot immediately when they realised he was lifeless."

'One chance' robbers torture, dispossess