

# 25-year-old's family petitions DIG over killing, demands arrest of trigger-happy cops

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Ogun State Police Commissioner, Lanre Bankole

The family of a 25-year-old man, Ariyo Olamide, has demanded justice for him after he was allegedly killed by trigger-happy policemen attached to the Ogun State Police Command.

The victim was on his way to attend his fiancée's birthday party in Abeokuta on August 19, 2021, when he was shot dead by five anti-kidnapping operatives of the state police command.

The lead counsel for the family, Lukmon Rahman, in a petition to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, Force Headquarters, Abuja, demanded the arrest and prosecution of the cops.

Rahman said the policemen, during a stop and search along the Papalantolaro Road in the Ewekoro Local Government Area of the state, shot the victim for unknown reasons.

While narrating the incident, he explained that the anti-kidnapping officers claimed that Olamide was driving at top speed in a tinted glass vehicle and when he was flagged down, he refused to stop.

Rahman said the police claimed that the people in his vehicle shot at them, but the shots missed, which forced the police to retaliate by shooting at the occupants.

He said according to the policemen, the exchange of gunshots between them and the occupants of Olamide's vehicle led to his death.

The lawyer alleged that “after the victim was killed, the policemen dropped an unused dane gun beside his corpse and labelled him a known criminal.”

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“It took the intervention of the independent investigation team set up by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Force Headquarters, to unravel the truth behind the killing of Olamide.

“When the deceased’s family visited the special investigation team set up by the DIG, the family was told that the ballistic report indicated that the dane gun found with the corpse had not been used for about three years,” he added.

He, however, maintained that frantic efforts by the deceased’s family to retrieve the corpse from the police proved futile.

Rahman called on the police authorities to make public the names of the killer policemen and charge them to court as soon as possible.