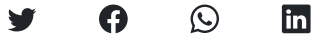


Vigilante kills Rivers youth leader, family seeks justice

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By Dennis Naku

18th October 2022



Rivers CP Eboka Friday

The family of late Okechukwu Eleonu, a former Chairman of Mgbuola community, Ndele, in the Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State, has demanded justice for him.

Okechukwu was allegedly killed by a former commander of a disbanded vigilance group in the area, Onelga Security Peace Advisory Council (OSPAC).

The younger brother of the deceased, Victor Eleonu, said his late brother got into trouble with OSPAC after he reported the illegal bunkering activities going on in the area to the police.

He alleged that the OSPAC commander was the leader of the illegal bunkering in the community.

He said, “Eyewitnesses told me that he (deceased) reported illegal oil bunkering business going on in the community to the Nigeria Police.

“And because of that, the disbanded OSPAC commander, who is the leader of the illegal oil bunkering business, caught Okechukwu and shot him.

“The matter has been reported to the Rumuji Police Station, but no arrest has been made yet.”

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The wife of the deceased and mother of three, Mary, called for the arrest of the culprit.

She said, “The commander of the defunct OSPAC shot my husband dead last Saturday. When I heard it, I ran to the place where they shoot him, but he was dead.

“I have three children — two boys and one girl. Who will take care of me and my children now? My husband is in the mortuary.

“I am begging the government to help me arrest this man. He said nobody can arrest him and nobody can do him anything. But I know that he is not bigger than the government.

“He said my husband removed him from OSPAC and wanted to close where he was doing bunkering.”

The spokesperson for the state police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the killing, adding that investigation was ongoing.