

Tension in Enugu community over murder of lorry driver

From PETRUS OBI,
Enugu & ZIKA BOBBY

Tension is mounting in Obollo-Afor, the commercial centre of Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State following the alleged murder of a lorry driver.

The situation was said to have worsened following the release of a prime suspect in the case and a businessman in the area, who was allegedly linked with the death of the driver identified as Sati Joshua from Plateau State.

Father of the deceased, Chief Joshua Malikano, has already petitioned Governor Sullivan Chime of Enugu State over alleged attempt to pervert the cause of justice and called for the re-arrest of the suspect.

In the petition through his lawyer, Chijioke Chikezie Ali, dated April 21, 2014, copy of which was made available to reporters in Enugu, Chief Maikano faulted the process through which the suspect was granted freedom after his arrest by the police.

However, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Ebere Amaraizu told our reporter that the suspect was properly arraigned in a law court, where the suspect could have been granted bail. But Chief Maikano, in his petition, maintained that on February 3, 2014, his son, who was a spare driver of a truck conveying goods from Port-Harcourt to the Northern parts of the country, got to Obollo-Afor, where they met a toll collection point mounted by the suspect and his agents.

He stated that it was when his son and his counterpart driver refused to pay the toll that the suspect and his agents mobilised other hoodlums to beat him up to the point of death with machetes, stones, iron rod and other dangerous weapons.

"The most annoying aspect of the whole episode was that the suspect is now alleging that our son fell from a moving vehicle. He has also hired and paid some witnesses, who went to the police and volunteered statements which tended to support this falsehood," he further stated.

Briefing newsmen on the development, the Coordinator of the Nigeria Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), South East zone, Alhaji Muritala Mohammed alias 10-10, hinted that already, some youths at Barikin Ladi Local Government Council were planning to carry out a reprisal attack if justice was not done on the matter.