

Police kills youth during funeral procession

FROM GEORGE
ONYEJIUWA, OWERRI

Tragedy struck yesterday as a youth was shot dead, while scores of others sustained varying degrees of injuries, when policemen attached to the Police Anti-Terrorist Squad fired shots at a funeral procession at Umuokoto, Umudibia, Nekede Autonomous Community in Owerri West Local Government Area, Imo State.

The deceased whose identity was yet to be ascertained

as at press time was taking part with over 30 other youths in the funeral procession when he was hit by a stray bullet fired by a mobile policeman.

The death of the youth sparked off a protest in the area. *Sunday Sun* reliably gathered that the sad incident occurred when the youths were returning from the mortuary, where they had gone to receive and escort the corpse of their kinsman to the community for burial. They were just a kilometre to the community when the shooting took place.

It was learnt that as the

police were maneuvering to pass the procession, an argument ensued between the policemen and the youths. In the process, one of the policemen shot at the procession without warning, killing one of the youths instantly, and injuring scores of others before speeding off.

It was learnt that when the youths regrouped and marched in protest to the Anti-Terrorist Police station at Umuoma, a neighbouring community, the policemen again started shooting sporadically at the youths injuring many of them.

Narrating his ordeal at

his hospital bed, one of the victims, identified as Okey Ekeocha explained that the bullet hit the tarred road and bounced back hitting him in the arm and head.

He said, "as the argument was going on, one of the policemen, jumped out from the vehicle and opened fire. One of the bullets hit one of us and he fell down and hit his head on the road, while another bullet hit the tarred road and bounced back and hit me in the arm and head.

"Bullets were extracted from my right arm and head. The doctor advised that I undergo another X-ray to

ensure that there is no other bullet lodged in my body."

When contacted, the Imo State Police Public Relations Officer, Andrew Enwerem, a deputy superintendent of police, who confirmed the incident said: "What I know is that the youths blocked the way, not allowing the Anti-Terrorist Police to pass. A quarrel ensued that led to two people being hospitalised."

However, he said calm was restored when a reinforcement squad was moved to the place, adding, "We are investigating to know the remote cause of the incident but I am not aware of any

ing World Igbo Congress, said the pain of his death just eclipsed the joy of having an Auxiliary Bishop, His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Jonas Benson Okoye, whose consecration he had attended on Friday, noting that the newly installed bishop had been the Government House chaplain during the eight-year tenure of his administration.

Obi noted that Bishop Simon Okafor was a lion of faith, who showed apostolic zeal and commitment to evangelism and propagation of the gospel, and urged other men of God to follow his example at all times for the greater good of Anambra State, Nigeria and humanity at large.

a lecturer at the University of Lagos described the situa-

in the past. I am not surprised at what I read today. The man does not have re-

ment. According to him, "it is quite unfortunate that

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome's family. Olusola said he had

deposited the money in a bank to ensure security and admin-

dividends to the people, and stressed that the PDP