

Neighbourhood Watch member kills colleague in Nsukka

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Nsukka

THE serene atmosphere of Orba in Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State was shattered at the weekend, as a gun-trotting Neighbourhood Watch member, Oallegedly shot dead one Chukwudi Ugwuoke at a burial wake-keep.

It was gathered that the incident occurred in the early hours of Friday at the residence of one Augustine Madu, during the burial wake of his wife, Cordelia, at Amaekwuru Amalla Orba.

The suspect identified as Odinaka, a driver to one of the community leaders in the town, hails from Okpu Orba, while his victim also said to be a member of the Neigh-

bourhood Watch, hailed from Mkpagu Imilike also in Udenu council area.

It was gathered that the late Ugwuoke, who was also a butcher at Oye Orba World Bank Assisted Market, was assigned to the venue of the burial wake-keep alongside five others, guard the area that night, while the suspect was not.

According to a source, when the suspect arrived in the venue, he was visibly angry as he complained of hunger, but the victim who was said to be eating bread, allegedly told him not to complain because they who were on duty were yet to be served food, and even offered him his bread if he wanted.

But the suspect was alleged to have cautioned his victim and a quarrel ensued between

the duo, which led to the suspect pulling the trigger.

It was gathered that the suspect allegedly shot his victim at close range on the throat. The shooting, a source said, threw the mourners into confusion as they ran in different directions for safety.

"The manner Chukwudi was killed made everyone to scamper for safety and before one could look back, the whole of the compound was deserted. The police were invited and after photographs of the deceased were taken, his corpse was taken to a morgue where it was deposited", the source said.

The source also disclosed that attempts made by some persons at the wake-keep to apprehend the suspect failed as he allegedly brandished his gun and dared anyone to

come close to him.

Apparently scared, they were said to have retreated, while the suspect moved hastily into his car and sped off.

When this reporter visited Obollo-Afor Police Station for confirmation of the incident, the Divisional Crime Officer (DCO), Fidelis Ugwuanyi, said he was not in a position to speak on the matter and referred him to the Area Command Nsukka, where a senior police officer, who did not want his name in print confirmed the incident.

He added that the suspect had surrendered himself to the Divisional Police Headquarters, Obollo-Afor even as the body of the deceased has been deposited at Bishop Shanahan Hospital, Nsukka, while investigations continues.