

followed thereafter: "As we me to the hospital. I think I number of the car. For a of the gang. •Okorie

# Day police officer killed colleague in Imo

## CP removes DPO, orders detention of all officers on duty

From GEORGE ONYEJIUWA,  
OWERRI

**THE** question on the lips of many is what could have led a police Inspector to attack and kill his fellow Inspector right inside the police station. The other question is: what were the other police officers at the station doing when the alleged fight broke out between the deceased and Inspector Augustine Njoku, the suspect who is now the guest of the State Criminal Investigation Department of the Imo State Police Command.

*Sunday Sun* reliably gathered from a family member of the late Inspector Bam Ubi from Ekorri in Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State, that Inspector Njoku who is serving in his native community of Iho in Ikeduru Council Area of Imo State, before his brutal attack on Inspector Ubi had threatened to deal with the deceased last year.

It was learnt that before the unfortunate incident took place on July 11, 2016 that the suspect three months ago was alleged to have cocked his rifle and threatened to shoot him because he had never been on good terms with him. It was said that when the late Inspector Bam reported the matter to the Divisional Police Officer, no action was taken. He, therefore, decided to take matter to the Police Provost at the State Command, but before he could act

on this, Inspector Njoku was said to have visited him alongside his wife to appeal to the deceased for a reprieve

The younger brother of late Inspector Ubi, Johnson Abam, who had lived with him revealed that the suspect had always picked unnecessary quarrels with Ubi on account of the successful restaurant operated in the community by the deceased's wife and had tried to sabotage the business by opening a similar one for his own wife in the same vicinity.

He also alleged that Inspector Njoku had also failed in his bid to use charms to eliminate the entire family of the deceased, and having failed, he had to employ hoodlums in apparent connivance with his fellow policemen to achieve his purpose.

Giving further insight, he said: "On July 11, 2016, my brother and his colleagues including the suspect, Inspector Augustine Njoku had finished their patrol led by ASP Livinus Onuoha around 02.00 am and parked the vehicle inside the Iho Police Station in Ikeduru and my brother went to rest in one of the abandoned cars in the station. It was while he was sleeping that Inspector Njoku attacked him and as he ran out of the vehicle in the direction of the station office, he was shouting for help. But Inspector Njoku chased after him and dragged him back as evidenced by the trails of his blood on the ground.

Continuing, abam said: "Njoku had opened the small gate at the back of the station and brought in some people who attacked and killed my brother because from the trails of his blood he had wanted to run into the charge room but his attackers prevented him from doing so."

He disclosed that the strident shouts of the deceased attracted the attention of a female Officer Writer 1, who had inquired from Inspector Njoku what he was doing with the people, who quickly scaled the wall as they heard the female officer. The suspect allegedly ordered her back into the charge room.

Upon learning of the incident, the Imo State Commissioner of Police, Taiwo Lakanu was aghast and immediately ordered that all the officers on duty that night be arrested. When contacted by *Sunday Sun*, he confirmed the incident, noting that the suspect had already been charged for murder.

In an interview, he told *Sunday Sun* reporter that the Divisional Police Officer, DPO, had also been removed and queried for gross incompetence because he failed to ensure discipline amongst his men.

"Such an act would not be tolerated by me as long as I remain the Police Commissioner of the Imo State Command. Where were the station officer, the charge room officer, the incident duty officer and his fellow officers on patrol duty that

early morning including the ASP Livinus Onuoha, who was the leader of the patrol team, when the attack was going on?

He said that when the DPO, CSP Yahuza Mohammed got to the station and saw the deceased lying in a pool of his blood with his intestines out, he tried to reach the suspect on the phone but he did not pick the call. But when the DPO flashed his torch through the open small gate, he saw the suspect outside with his cloth covered with blood. A kitchen knife, dagger and the beret of the suspect were found beside the deceased close to the small gate where the suspect had dragged him to.

"I suspected that the real intention of Inspector Njoku was to drag the deceased outside the police station through the exit gate but he never succeeded in his plans. If he had succeeded, he would have claimed that Ubi was attacked and killed by unknown hoodlums."

The distraught brother of Ubi said in spite of all that happened, the DPO never ordered for the detention of all those on duty that night including the suspect who was allowed to go to the hospital.

*Sunday Sun* learnt from a reliable police source that the suspect probably inflicted injuries on his hand to make it appear as if they had been attacked by armed robbers from outside and had collected his gun and that of the deceased with the intension of hiding them in the bush but mistakenly returned that of the deceased at the counter that night. Realising his mistake, he hid his own gun in the bush. The source said that the suspect had also called his wife to take him to hospital immediately the DPO had left the station.