

Imo police boss probes killing of German-based businessman

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THE Imo state Commissioner of police, Abutu Yaro, has ordered a thorough investigation into the alleged killing of a German-based Nigerian, Oguchi Unachukwu, who was said to have been shot by the personnel of the 211 regiment of the Nigerian Air Force.

The deceased and his family were said to be on their way to catch a flight at the Sam Mbakwe International Cargo airport, Owerri, to Lagos, for an onward movement to Humburg, Germany, when he was shot at the tollgate of the airport, on May 31.

The CP, sequel to the call by the widow of the slain Unachukwu, Mrs Ijeoma Unachukwu, and other concerned citizens, to ensure that the killers did not go unpunished, swiftly commenced investigation into the killing.

The CP, in a statement issued by the command's Spokesperson, Bala Elkana, assured that his office would ensure that justice prevailed.

The statement read: "The Commissioner of Police Imo State Command, Abutu Yaro, has ordered an in-depth investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of one Uguchi Unachukwu 'm' near the toll gate of Sam

Mbakwe International Cargo Airport, Owerri, on May 31, 2021, at about 0804 hours.

"The deceased person is alleged to have been shot by personnel suspected to be staff of 211 Regiment of the Nigerian Air Force, responsible for the security of the International Airport. The deceased was said to be on his way to catch a flight to Lagos. A survivor stated that one of the Air Force operatives shot the car of Oguchi when he failed to stop at the Air Force checkpoint after

they had flagged him down.

"Following the information, the Air Force team at the toll gate, who were already on red alert, especially considering the recent killing of a high profile politician around the same area, intercepted a fast approaching Mercedes Benz vehicle.

"They flagged down the vehicle and ordered the driver to park by the roadside for search, but the driver who, at first, slowed down and pretended to move to the side of

the road, suddenly took off.

"According to the Air Force, being suspicious of the mission of the occupants of the said vehicle at the International Airport, they made an effort to demobilise the vehicle. When the vehicle eventually came to a halt, the operatives rounded it and ordered the occupants out.

"It was at this point that a female passenger in the car mentioned that the man driving the vehicle was her husband and that he was rushing

FG mulls death penalty for railway

THE Federal Government said it may consider capital punishment for railway track vandals in the country.

Minister of Transportation, Mr Rotimi Amaechi, said this during a Town Hall Meeting on "Protecting Public Infrastructure" yesterday, in Abuja.

Amaechi described rail track vandalism as a capital offence and said its consequences should be treated as such.

"I am not quantifying the material cost; what I am quantifying is the lives that will be lost. Imagine that a driver of a rail track is driving and suddenly bumps into a track that has been severed, what happens? It will derail.

"Each coach in Nigeria carries about 85 passengers, some-

times we carry 14 coaches, sometimes 20. So, imagine you are carrying a train of 14 or 20 coaches with 85 passengers in each coach, if it derails, can you quantify how many passengers that would have died in the course of one man thinking he is making money.

"So, it is not about the cost, but the lives that would have been lost because of little interest. Some people have recommended that since these people are killing people, if an accident happens people will die; so we should go back to the National Assembly and pass a law that does not only criminalise the action, but consequences should be death," he said.

The minister further suggested that if armed robbery,

whether successful or not, attracts life imprisonment, rail track vandalism should not be any less. He said the track vandalism was being done in collaboration with foreign partners.

"In Jos, they arrested a Chinese company that bought those tracks from them, went to court and the court found them guilty and fined them N200, 000. So there must be consequences as N200,000 is

