

Enugu communities petition IGP against ASP over death in police custody

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By Rukaiya Maina

Prominent youth leaders in Enugu North Senatorial Zone, Enugu State, have appealed to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, to order the immediate arrest and prosecution of a police officer, ASP Dumbiri of Nsukka police Area Command over the suspicious death of Nnaemeka John Ugwu in his custody.

Dumbiri's notoriety in brutality, impunity and human rights abuses had led to several petitions against him to the Enugu state Panel on Police Brutality and Extra -Judicial Killings, which summoned him on November 23, 2020.

The alleged notorious police officer, who was an Inspector serving in Udenu police Area Command, Orba, in Udenu Local Government Area (LGA) of Enugu state, was subsequently transferred to Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of the state.

However, he was said to have lobbied his way back to Nsukka Area Command, where he established notoriety in raiding innocent people, extorting and torturing them in the LGAs under the Enugu North Senatorial zone, without reporting to the respective Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) before carrying out the illegal raids.

In a petition to the IGP through the Chairman of Udenu LGA, the petitioners alleged that on February 6, 2025, ASP Dumbiri led his notorious team from Nsukka Area Command with unarmed individuals on mask to abduct Joy Eze, an apprentice of Mmesoma Medical Patent Store in Obollo Afor at the branch store, and later abducted a married woman, Nnaemeka Ngozi, at the main office of the patent medicine store, also at Obollo Afor.

The petition, which was written by Udochukwu Ezeme and 19 others explained that on February 7, 2025, Nnaemeka John Ugwu, Mama Doris Ogochukwu, Ugwu Onyemaechi and Uju Mbah, were at Nsukka Area Command to negotiate for the release of Joy Eze and Nnaemeka Ngozi (Mr Nnaemeka's wife).

According to the petitioners, the detainees were tortured by Dumbiri to accept a false statement he wrote on their behalf but they refused.

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They alleged that this revelation angered Dumbiri, who returned Ogochukwu and Ngozi to the police cell and also ordered Mbah to leave the area command premises.

“Ngozi's husband, Ugwu was also pleading that they should not be detained.

“While Ugwu was with Dumbiri, his younger brother Onyemaechi Ugwu, who went outside the police station to buy bottle water for the detainees, got a call from Ugwu’s phone number, only to hear Dumbiri’s voice asking him to come to his office that his brother had collapsed. Onyemaechi Ugwu and Uju Mbah rushed back to the premises only to discover the lifeless body of his elder brother, Ugwu, on the floor of Nsukka Area Command,” the petitioners explained.

The petitioners alleged that as soon as Onyemaechi Ugwu and Uju Mbah returned to the police station, ASP Dumbiri gave them the late Ugwu’s phone and ATM card.

They also stated that the officer hurriedly released all the detainees and told them that the cases against them had ended.

The petitioners wondered why Dumber collected the deceased’s ATM Card and appealed to the IGP to order his arrest and prosecution and that of his team for Mr Ugwu’s suspicious death.

The Enugu State Police Command was said to have used the arrest of other criminals by the police to cover Dumbiri’s atrocities against innocent men, women and youths.