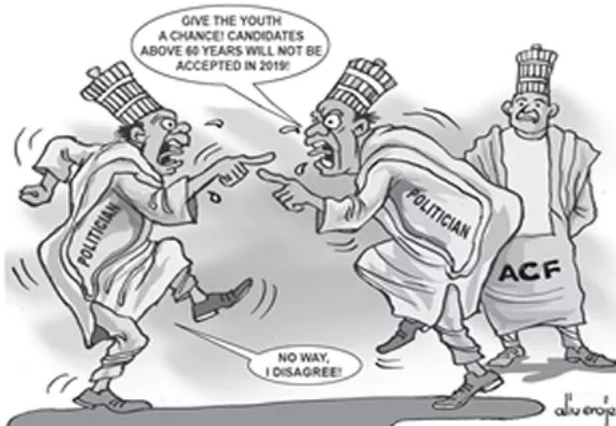


## The murder and arson in Apapa

August 10, 2017 Correspondent



The recent killing of a truck driver, Tunde Azeez, 27, on Creek Road, Apapa, in Lagos, by a policeman attached to Diamond Bank and consequent arson on the bank and Sterling Bank's branch are the latest of embarrassing twin crimes, which, again, underscore the worrisome malaise in the country.

The incident reportedly occurred when hundreds of trucks responsible for the notorious road traffic congestion through their endless wait to access petroleum products' tank farms, constituted blockade on the frontage of the banks, which, in the assessment of the policeman, could compromise security of the banks.

In one unimaginable moment, the policeman allegedly shot Azeez, propelling his infuriated colleagues to seek revenge by pursuing the errant policeman into the bank. Hence the two branches were incinerated even as another tanker driver caught with a jerry can laden with fuel had to be shot as well to de-escalate the inferno.

While the existence of contradictory accounts of this issue cannot be discountenanced, we condemn the arson and the horrendous murder. That the murder was committed by a trained policeman, especially one acquainted with rules governing weapon handling, his rank immaterial, made it unacceptable.

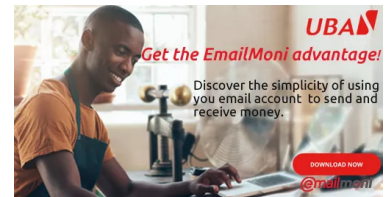
From all indications, obnoxious abuse of weapon of this nature by police officers has become recurring incidents, apparently because of failure to prosecute and convict previous murders, paradoxically by law enforcement officers.

For instance, a Chief Superintendent of Police, Segun Fabunmi, now dismissed former Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in Lagos, is still standing trial over the murder of Adedamola Daramola in 2012, while one former DPO of Ankwunanaw Division in Enugu was merely exited from the force following alleged murder and kidnap incident, which occurred in 2009.

## Categories

Select Category ▾

## image1



Rescuing Nigeria's industrial clusters  
Last week, Minister of ...



Broadcasting:  
Battling Illegal practices on spectrum usage

Nigeria's broadcasting ...



Mobile verification:  
PTAD's succour for sick pensioners  
Pension verification

is a ...



Experts to tackle cybercrime at forum

How to tackle the

effect ...



Minister to agencies: Obey executive orders  
Minister of ...



Godzilla actor dies at 88  
Haruo Nakajima, the actor ....



R2-D2 droid used in Star Wars films sells for \$2.76m  
An R2-D2 droid that

was ....

Similarly, justice has not been served in the case of the DPO of Ijeshatedo in Lagos State, CSP Mohammed Yakubu, who allegedly killed Jamiu Ayodele, a fashion designer, a few months ago. Nigerians would recall with consternation and disdain the crime of passion – the murder in 2005 of the FCT Apo Six – Ekene Isaac, Ifeanyi Ozor, Chinedu Meniru, Paulinus Ogbonna, Anthonia Nwosike and Augustina Arebu – allegedly on the orders of a serving Deputy Commissioner of Police, Danjuma Ibrahim. Danjuma and the rest were discharged and acquitted.

Only two policemen, Ezekiel Acheneje and Emmanuel Baba, were sentenced to death by Justice Ishaq Bello of FCT High Court some months ago. Sadly, when such cases are not prosecuted to logical conclusion, the pains of relations of the slain are never assuaged and trigger-happy policemen are further emboldened

It is instructive that police authorities have self-cleaning mechanism, guidelines and service orders to complement Police Regulations and the Police Act. They stipulate administrative and legal mechanisms for policemen on proper use of firearms. Force Order 234, a notable instance in this regard, stipulates three circumstances where such weapon could be fired.

They are: when the live of a police officer is threatened or he is under attack and has no option to handle the situation than to shoot; when a citizen is under attack and policeman must shoot, may be, to immobilise the aggressor or potential killer to safe the victim and, when a suspect who committed a felony is trying to escape from custody. We note that such circumstances could be very objective and not subjective as an earring or trigger- happy policemen can hide behind the cloak of provocation or any of the above justifications as basis for his action.

On the part of the tanker drivers, we say categorically that no amount of provocation justifies the arson on the two branches of the banks, since such action would not and did not reproduce or resurrect the victim in the first place.

Though it must have been a way to vent their displeasure over the loss of a colleague, the action rather compounded the ignominious and condemnable act, which portrays us in bad light.

Also objectionable was government's inertial to fix the failed portions of the Creek Road, which precipitated the commission of this crime. The existence of a nexus between frustration and violent action is undeniable as a group of men who spent days in the chaotic traffic to access the ports, feeding and bathing in the open, are predisposed to vent their frustration on anyone. That though is no justification for such crime.

On the flip side, much as we are not oblivious of efforts of the Nigeria Police in addressing this cancerous obnoxious deviance in the force, we frown at it and recommend a combination of factors in eliminating the problem. Officers and men of the force and, indeed, the armed forces, need continuous education on sanctity of human life, even as they must resist the temptation to spare their erring former colleagues.

One of the ways human dignity can be upheld is when law enforcement officers adhere to the rule governing their duties in treating civilians with respect and without brutality. Above all, our legal system will be better enhanced when errant policemen and uniform men face full punishment for abuse of firearms. We hope this will not be an exception.

**How I TOTALLY Got Rid Of my POT BELLY, body Fat and Overweight Issues In just 2weeks..**

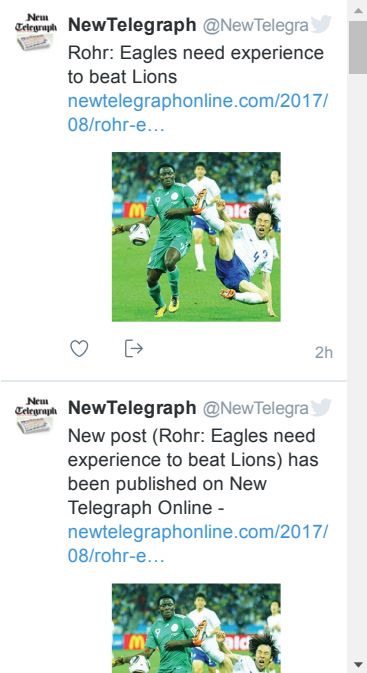
**Click HERE for Details**



Customizing  
WordPress Themes  
Archives For  
Categories

Most WordPress Themes ....

Tweets by @NewTelegraph1



Embed

View on Twitter