

Youths snatch rifle, raze naval post over killing



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A naval officer has allegedly shot and killed a pedestrian at a checkpoint on Owerri-Umuahia Expressway. The tragedy, which occurred about 6p.m. on Saturday, provoked a violent protest from youths of the community who attacked and snatched an AK47 belonging to the trigger-happy naval officer.

The angry youth also torched a building, which served as a guest house for naval officers. It was learnt yesterday that one of the naval officers had ordered one his subordinates to shoot the victim, an order the suspect did not question.

A community source said: "One of the naval officers ordered his colleague to shoot the victim and he immediately obeyed the instruction. The victim died on the spot. "The youth of the community grouped themselves and attacked the naval officers. One of their rifles was snatched from them and the building which served as guest house for them since December was set ablaze." It took a detachment from the state police command to restore normalcy in the area.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Andrew Enwerem, confirmed the killing. He said that the AK47 rifle snatched from the trigger-happy officer by the irate youth had been recovered by the police.