

METRO

...CRIME, CITY WATCH, COURTS

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Outrage and condemnation have continued to trail the gruesome murder of a female lawyer, Mrs Omobolanle Raheem, said to be pregnant after waiting for the fruit of the womb for eight years, while returning from Christmas service with her husband at Ajah under-bridge on Christmas day.

... IGP condemns, assures on justice, speedy investigation

Condemning the killing, the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba described it as unfortunate and sad, while ordering speedy investigation and prosecution of the officers responsible for the "ugly and unprofessional act, which he doesn't portray the Nigeria Police Standard Operating Procedure and core values."

The Force Police Public Relations Officer (FPRO), CSP Muiyewa Adejobi said in the same vein, the IGP commiserates with the family, friends, and colleagues of the deceased as he prays for the repose of her soul.

He further assures the public of justice in the case while he warns officers and men of the Force to be professional and people-oriented in the discharge of their duties and operate within the ambit of the law, as the Force's leadership will not condone any inappropriate or unprofessional acts.

...Sanwo-Olu condemns killing.

Also reacting, the Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu condemned in strongest term, the shooting and killing of Mrs. Bolanle Raheem, expressing shock and sadness over what he described as mindless shooting of "a harmless citizen" by a police officer whose primary job function was to protect the same citizen.

Sanwo-Olu sympathised with the family, friends and associates of the late Bolanle Raheem, pledging the state government's full support and cooperation with the police authorities in their investigation to unravel the remote and immediate cause of the shooting, which led to the untimely death of the innocent citizen, with a view to ensuring that justice is served.

He said: "I have studied preliminary reports on the matter and have instructed the appropriate government officers to immediately get on it. We must ensure a speedy justice for the late Bolanle. Our Government cannot sit back and watch our citizens killed

Ajah shooting: Uproar as IGP, Sanwo-Olu, NBA, others condemn lawyer's death

...eyewitnesses urge thorough investigation



Late Bolanle Raheem

by the same law enforcers that should ordinarily protect them.

"I'm aware that the Lagos State Police Command have arrested, disarmed and detained the police officers involved in the shooting incident. I can assure you that the accused persons will have their day in court and nothing will be spared under the Laws of Lagos State until justice is served adequately. We will ensure that it is done speedily because justice delayed is justice denied."

Governor Sanwo-Olu, however, appealed to residents to remain calm and not take the law into their hands on the matter; assuring Lagosians that the government will live up to her responsibilities and get justice for the late Bolanle Raheem.

The governor prayed for the repose of the late Bolanle Raheem's soul, asking God to grant her immediate family and friends the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

...NBA demands justice

Also reacting, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has said it will ensure that justice is served in the case.

The National Publicity Secretary, NBA, Akorede Lawal, described the incident as unfortunate, adding that the president of the association, Yakubu Maikayau, was monitoring the situation.

He tweeted, "We are aware of this unfortunate incident. This is yet another crime against a lawyer. Regrettably, our member is gone. The NBA President @YC Maikayau (SAN) is right on this and we shall ensure that justice is duly served."

...eyewitnesses account

An eyewitness account alleged that the police officer and his team from Ajiwe Police Station always mounted checkpoints at the spot where the incident occurred, ostensibly to extort motorists before the sad event.

According to the eyewitness; "Those of us that live around Ajah are familiar with the many atrocities of the officers of Ajiwe Police Station. They are always drunk while on duty."

"This was a very sad event on Sunday when I was coming back from church."

"The officer simply identified as Ayuba was visibly drunk and all entreaties from his colleagues to allow the lady's husband who was driving the car to go proved abortive."

"While the lady's husband was looking for a space to park his vehicle, the officer shot at the vehicle and the bullet went straight to the chest of the deceased and she died right there on the spot."

"Thanks to members of the public that chased after the police officer and his colleagues, who tried to run away from the scene and apprehended them."

"The officer asked them to park and they needed the vehicle in front to move so they could park well and immediately the police officer shot at a close range right into her chest. On seeing what happened, the remaining police officers on duty there absconded."

"After a while, some police men came and moved her body to the mortuary in Yaba, without obtaining any consent from her family members. Currently her family has located where they

moved her body to."

It will be recalled that police brutality is rampant in Lekki area. Just last year, one Jelili Bakare was shot dead by Police Inspector Jonathan Kampani.

According to Human rights lawyer, Iheniye Effiong, on his twitter handle, the name of the policeman has been identified as ASP Ayuba.

Effiong said the pregnant lawyer was shot dead while returning from Church with her husband. "We were at the station today (yesterday) and also paid a condolence visit to her family. All we are demanding is justice."

...Lagos Police condole with family, say suspects already in custody

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Abiodun Alabi, has expressed heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Mrs Raheem.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Benjamin Hundayin said on the instruction of the Commissioner of Police, the errant officer has since been taken into custody alongside his team members. The CP has equally directed that

the case be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Yaba for in-depth investigation.

Many have described this as one killing too many especially bearing in mind that a similar incident occurred at the same location less than three weeks ago.

"The condemnable incident is against the standard operating procedures (SOP) and rules of engagement of the Force, and to say the least is embarrassing. Beyond this incident, the Nigeria Police Force will carry out a reappraisal of its rules of engagement in a bid to put an end to such avoidable incidents."

"The Lagos State Police Command hereby appeals to the good people and residents of Lagos State to remain calm as the Command is already in constant touch with the Nigerian Bar Association and other relevant stakeholders towards ensuring that justice totally prevails."

It would be recalled that on December 8, 2022, a policeman attached to Ajah police Division also shot dead one Gafaru Buraimoh of Land Estate, Ajah when the police officer and his colleagues were raiding people selling black market fuel at the Ajiwe Filling Station.

Outrage trails killing of couple by A'ibom senator's convoy

Tony Anichebe, UYO

Angry youths of Akon-Itam community in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State have persisted in

their protests over the killing of a couple on the Calabar-Itu Highway allegedly by a convoy of vehicles ferrying the senator representing Akwa Ibom South, senatorial district, Mrs. Akon Eyakenyi, back to Uyo, the state capital from her campaign tour.

Senator Eyakenyi, is the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) deputy governorship candidate and running mate to Pastor Umo Eno, the party's standard-bearer in the upcoming polls in 2023.

Speaking to journalists, one of

the distraught youths, Comrade Utibe Inyang, explained that the convoy rammed into the couple on a motorcycle, while trying to navigate the ever busy highway connecting the neighbouring Calabar, Cross River State.

He maintained that what further fuelled the anger of the people stemmed from the poor handling of the compensation package of a paltry N2 million the Senator gave to the family to quell the case.

"The husband and wife killed by her convoy died and left behind three young children, so the pains we are still feeling now is because of the disdainful attitude demonstrated by the Deputy Governorship candidate without considering how these young orphans would be trained and developed without their parents," he explained.

It was gathered that some officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), called to manage traffic at the scene were injured and their patrol vehicle damaged by the local residents, but the Corps Commander in the state, Mathew Olonisaye, who spoke with our Correspondent, said "only our vehicle was vandalized," adding that the situation had been brought under control and normalcy returned.

Confirming the incident, the Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr. Olatoye Durosinni, said calm has returned following fruitful negotiation for them to embrace peace, adding that but for timely intervention, the youths were on the verge of torching some vehicles in the convoy.



Sen. Mrs. Akon Eyakenyi

Uchenna Inya

ABAK, LIKI

The Coordinator of Ishielu Development Centre, Ishielu Local Government Area, Ebonyi State, Sunday Agwu has died in an automobile accident.

Agwu, one of the strong men in Umani's administration, died in the morning of Boxing Day.

There were two accounts of how he died. One account has it

Umahi's aide dies in Boxing Day auto crash

that he died while on transit, while the other account said he died in his private car along Abakaliki Enugu Expressway.

Chairman of Ishielu Local Government Area, Obinna Onwe described Agwu's death as a colossal loss and urged his family to take solace in God.

Agwu's body had been deposited in the morgue.

It would be recalled that another Umahi's aide, Leonard Alegu

had also died.

He was killed by gunmen on 17th of this month while traveling for child dedication in Onitsha, Anambra State.

The gunmen shot him on the stomach when he was trying to resist them and made away with his phones and vehicle.

He was rushed to the hospital where he died. Alegu was a member of the Judicial Service Commission in the state.