

Taiwo Jimoh

Murder

The widow of a businessman allegedly shot by a trigger happy policeman in Kwuba, a Satellite town of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, is demanding for justice.

It was learnt that Onyebuchi Anene, died after a policeman attached to the Abuja Special Intervention Squad (SIS), of the Nigeria Police shot him with a teargas canister on his forehead.

Anene was said to be driving home on Wednesday, May 22, when a motorcycle rider hit him from behind and this led to altercation.

The deceased who was returning from work that night at about 9pm, resolved the issue with the bike man, only for a policeman to come into the matter and ordered both of them to follow him to their station.

The deceased and the bike man stood their ground that they were not going with him, suddenly, he brought out his gun and shot a teargas canister into Anene's face and the canister got stuck on his forehead.

The distraught widow, Mrs. Ogochukwu Anene, said her husband was killed by the policeman over a matter that didn't concern him, calling on well meaning Nigerians to come to her aid and get justice for her late husband who was killed in a cold blooded manner.

Genesis

Mrs. Anene, narrating how she got the information about the death of her husband, said on the fateful day, one of their neighbors came to knock on their door to come to their own apartment that they have something to discuss, to her surprise she saw some people washing her husband's vehicle in their compound stained with blood.

She said, "When I saw the vehicle being washed, I asked about my husband's whereabouts, I was told to calm down that they were taking the vehicle to somewhere, I was inquisitive, I wanted to know why they were washing his vehicle. I started suspecting something, at a point I shouted at those washing his vehicle about the whereabouts of my husband."

She added: "I also saw my husband's two phones with another person and I inquired again from those people where they were taking the vehicle to, it was one of them who told me they were going to national hospital and I asked what happened at the hospital."

"I was unstable, I wanted to know what happened to my husband and they refused to tell me. I was later told to join them in the vehicle to the national hospital, while in the vehicle I still kept asking them about my husband, nobody answered me. It was when I got

Wife, police bicker over husband's death

... demand justice



CP Benneth



Wife of the victim



Onyebuchi, the victim

to the hospital that I saw my husband bleeding seriously from his nose and the canister shot by the policeman stuck to his face.

"The condition I saw my husband was critical, he was struggling to breathe, his tongue came out from his mouth, he recognised my voice when I told him to be strong for me and our daughters, he raised up his hand and later dropped it. Few minutes after, the doctors asked me and others to go out that they wanted to attend to him, I wept uncontrollably."

She added that one of the doctors called her that her husband's brain is blocked, it's not functioning for the past one hour. That they don't know what happened, that I should pray.

"That was how I went outside with my sister to start praying for my husband and they took him to trauma centre where a test was conducted on him. I followed them down there. I went inside the ward to check him, what I noticed was that he was battling with his life and breathing heavily. The doctor said they would operate him 4:30am, which is on Thursday."

"The surgery couldn't hold that same day, it was postponed to 8am, because the doctor said they had to stabilise him first before the operation. The manner I saw the doctors and nurses running around, I noticed something was amiss, I told my sister that hope it's not that something has happened to my husband? When I touched his head, chest everything is blocked."

"It was only his thigh that was functioning. After thirty minutes the doctor called me into his office and said madam and told me he was dead, but his friends said no that is not true, we have to rush him to another place, he was also pronounced dead there, that was how I became a widow at a young age with two daughters, that was

they should go to the police station in Byazhin. The bike man said they had settled the matter and didn't need to go to the station.

"The police insisted and tried to drag him, but he refused because he was close to his estate. He told the policeman that he had forgiven the bike. But the driver of the police van, sprayed teargas on him before he shot another teargas on his forehead—what you saw stuck on his face was a teargas canister. The wound is very deep. Blood was gushing out as he called for help."

"They went to Kubwa General Hospital, but they were referred to the National Hospital, he died on Thursday. The FCT Command Commissioner of Police had visited the victim's family to console the wife, children and his family members."

Autopsy

A source told our correspondent that after the visit by the FCT Commissioner of Police, CP Benneth Igweh, to the widow and the family members nothing was heard from them again.

The source said since the gruesome murder the police authority didn't say anything about it again.

He said: "It was those of them who are the deceased town's people in Abuja who tried to conduct autopsy on him, but police was not cooperating with us to get it done."

"They also refused to provide us required letter needed for the autopsy. We decided to conduct the autopsy, because we don't want a situation whereby police sweep the case under the carpet. We don't want our brother to die in vain, his kids are still young and the wife too. We want justice for him."

Police reaction

The FCT Command Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), SP Josephine Adegbe said in response to the tragic and unprecedented incident that the Commissioner of Police, CP Benneth Igweh, directed that the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Criminal Investigation Department commence an immediate and discreet investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of the deceased.

"The police officer responsible for the accidental discharge was already in our custody, the CP expresses profound and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. He however condemns the unprofessional and disheartening conduct of the police officer and assures family and the public of swift justice."

"I want to assure the deceased family and the general public that justice shall prevail on the matter and we would keep them updated as the matter proceeds."

how a policeman killed my husband over a matter that didn't concern him. All I want is justice for him, I don't want him to die in vain."

Deceased's friend reacts

A friend of the deceased, who didn't want his name in print said it was unfortunate that Onyebuchi died in such circumstance.

The deceased friend who spoke with our correspondent on phone, said Onyebuchi was close to his Haj Estate, on Arab Road, Kwuba, on the fateful day when a bike man hit his vehicle from behind which led to altercation between both men.

He said witnesses at the scene told him and his friends when they went to pick his vehicle at the scene of the incident that it was during the altercation that the policeman who was on patrol arrived at the scene and directed both men to follow him to their Byazhin Police Station.

"The incident happened very close to his house. He was coming back from work."

"As they were arguing, policemen on patrol came and insisted

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