

Atiku's Bodyguard Shot Dead

An incident allegedly involving some Policemen and Victor Okonkwo, a bodyguard attached to Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, has led to the alleged shooting to death of the later. Some versions of the story were being peddled yesterday. One account said he drove an "operational vehicle", which was not marked by a number plate, to Keffi, in Nasarawa State yesterday morning to write an examination at the Nasarawa Polytechnic, where he was undergoing a part-time diploma programme.

Another version of the story says the bodyguard failed to heed a warning by Federal Highway Policemen on patrol, leading to a con-

From Funmi Peter-Omale in Abuja

frontation.

Another version said Okonkwo had actually followed the arresting party to the Police Station at Keffi and showed his service ID card and offered to leave behind the car at the Police Station for a chance to be allowed to proceed to write his examination.

A source said an attempt to force the deceased into a cell in the station led to a scuffle, in the course of which a policeman's "hand felt Victor's service pistol on his body." The next thing that followed was a scuffle and shooting.

The third account of what happened was that in the course of his encounter with

the policemen, Okonkwo allegedly brought out both his service pistol and I.D, which angered the policemen, and they reacted by opening fire on him.

Until his death, Okonkwo was in his mid 20s and hailed from Anambra state. He had served in the Vice President's security for five years.

FCT Police Command Commissioner, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, who spoke with THIS-DAY yesterday confirmed the incident but said he was not in possession of details because the incident did not happen within his operational command.

He said: "Something like that happened in Nasarawa State but I don't have the details because is not in my area of command."