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## Police Gun Down 3-Yr Old Culprit Faces Murder Trial, Others Dismissed

*Ike Wigodo • Friday, Apr 10, 2009*

A middle aged man has narrated how a policeman at a check-point in Obanle Aro Bus Stop, Ketu, Lagos, shot and killed his three-year old daughter.

Mr. Muritala Kaosarat, who gave a graphic account of how he escaped death by the whiskers, said he was dumb founded when, he saw the lifeless body of his three-year old baby, who was preparing to celebrate her third birthday.

He explained that on April 5, he and his family, were coming from a Moslem ceremony at Alebiju area of Ketu around 9.30pm when they ran into a police check-point.

"We were coming from a ceremony, when we met stern-looking policemen, who stopped a commuter bus ahead of us, and our vehicle attempted to take the narrow route beside the bus," when we heard a gun shot, then a bullet pierced through the rear windscreen of my friend's Nissan car, hit his hand and then my daughters head", Kaosarat explained.

According to him, "immediately I saw that the bullet hit my daughter's head, I carried her and pursued the policemen, who fled immediately after shooting my daughter.

"I eventually caught up with the policeman that fired the gun,

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dropped my daughter's lifeless body, and held him tight so that he could not escape", he further narrated.

Explaining further, he said "other policemen came back, and started shooting into the air to scare me, but I told them to kill me also, as they had done their worst by killing my daughter, who would have celebrated her birthday last Monday.

Kaosarat, a truck driver, said other citizens helped him prevail on the police after being thoroughly beaten with his wife, despite the injury inflicted on his hand by the bullet, to use their Peugeot patrol van to take the corpse of the little girl to Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, after spending the night in the Alapere police cell.

When The Tide visited LASUTH, a medical doctor, who does not want his name in print, said he was disappointed at the action of the policemen, adding that immediately the corpse was removed from the police car, the policemen drove off without showing any remorse.

He urged the police authority to bring to book whoever was responsible for the crude act, and prayed that God should punish the wicked.

However, the Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the incident, describing it as purely an accident which is highly regretted.

In his words, "the death of the little girl was purely an accident because the policemen actually did not target the vehicle in which the poor girl and her parents were traveling,"

stressing that the three policemen involved had been given orderly room trial and dismissed from the police while the officer, who pulled the trigger would soon be arraigned in court for murder.

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