

## Who killed MOPOL man, Vigilante or Robbers?

**L**AGOS—THE police in Lagos are still battling to unravel the mystery surrounding last week killing of a mobile police officer attached to Police Mobile Force (PMF) 23, identified as Gibson Zachaus in front of his residence at Ejigbo.

So far, two members of the vigilante group in the area have been arrested by the police and are undergoing interrogation at the homicide section of the State Criminal Investigations Department, (SCID), in Pantti, Yaba.

The mobile policeman and one Jonathan Okafor were reportedly taking their bath outside their compound on Fayemi Street, Ejigbo at about 1 a.m. that Monday when the incident occurred. Sources said members of the vigilante group contracted to watch over the area had accosted the duo and demanded why they were still outside at that hour of the night.

A minor argument had reportedly ensued following which the mobile policeman introduced himself but the guards allegedly ordered that they enter their compound without delay or be ready to incur their wrath.

*Cityscope* gathered that the police officer who felt insulted had asked the vigilante members to do their worst, insisting that he was taking fresh air following a power outage.

Apparently irked by the statement of the mobile policeman one of the vigilante men allegedly fired at the police officer directly on his chest and he slumped and died on the spot. The vigilance group reportedly fled the scene almost immediately leaving the deceased in a pool of his blood.

*Cityscope* gathered that after the incident was reported at Ejigbo police station, a team of policemen visited the scene and removed the body later to the public mortuary. They later swooped on members of the vigilance group and succeeded in arresting two of them who were reportedly on duty at the time of the incident.

However, *Cityscope* gathered from the homicide section of the SCID in Pantti where the case was transferred to that detectives are working on the theory that the mobile police officer may have been a victim of robbery attack. This, according to sources, is as a result of the outcome of investigations after the suspects were thoroughly interrogated. The two suspects were reportedly said to have claimed innocence of the accusation on the grounds that they were not even allowed to carry guns while on duty, a claim which was also said to had been corroborated by their employers in the area.

So far, it was not clear whether police has interrogated the deceased police officer's companion, Mr. Jonathan Okafor, on the night of the incident. But sources said detectives have sworn to unravel the circumstances that led to the brutal murder of their colleague.