

Accidental discharge: Police kill two in Ondo

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE—A MIDDLE-AGED man and an elderly woman were at the weekend shot dead as a result of accidental discharge from a team of mobile policemen at a checkpoint near Ilara-Mokin in Ifedore Council area of Ondo State.

Their assailants who include an Inspector and two corporals, were immediately apprehended following a directive from the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Innocent Ilozuoke, when the news reached him.

Vanguard gathered that one of the victims Isola Babalola, a father of five, was

said to be going to Akure to spend the weekend with his family when the car in which he was travelling ran into the checkpoint around 7.30 p.m. at a junction in Ilara.

It was learnt that the commercial vehicle which was conveying the victims was said to have departed Ojota Motor Park in Lagos around 4 p.m. on the fateful day with five people on board including the driver.

Findings showed that the killing of the deceased was as a result of accidental discharge caused by improper handling of firearm by one of the policemen.

Vanguard reliably gathered

that the driver of the vehicle was neither speeding nor was stopped by the policemen at the checkpoint.

Speaking with newsmen, one of the occupants of the Toyota car, Mr. Wale Ogungbemi, said he was sitting at the back seat with the two victims and that there was no communication between the driver and the policemen before the unfortunate incident occurred.

Ogungbemi who said that Babalola is his relation narrated their ordeal on the ill-fated day.

According to him "we were not doing more than 30 kilometers because that portion of the road was bad. There was no warning or anything. We just heard the sound of a single gunshot.

"Initially, we didn't know our car was hit until Babalola, who was sitting in the middle told me that he had been shot. The other woman died instantly. We didn't stop but told the driver to try and get to the nearest hospital but unfortunately, he died before we got there".

Investigations revealed that the state Police Command was immediately notified of the incident through its Public Relations Officer, Adeniran Aremu, who in turn responded by informing the Police Commissioner.

The Police Commissioner, *Vanguard* was told, thereafter became furious and subsequently ordered for the immediate arrest of the policemen.



ANK: From left; Mr. Raymond Obieri, Chairman, Intercontinental Bank, Oba of Lagos, Chief Molade Okoya-Thomas and Dr. [unclear] of the bank during the 15th Intercontinental Bank's Diamond