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Nigeria: Tension Mounts Over Death of Transporter in Anambra

# Vanguard (Lagos) 5 August 2008

Vincent Ujumadu

TENSION is mounting at Isulo, in Orumba

South local government area of Anambra
State, following the death of a transporter, Mr. Joseph Mbachu, at the premises of the Divisional Police Office at Umunze, with the family of the deceased petitioning the State Commissioner of Police to bring to book those behind the alleged murder. The petition was written on behalf of the family by its lawyer, Mr. Ndubuisi Onwuka.

The police have, however, denied killing Mbachu, saying that the deceased died of high blood pressure.

According to the petition, the late Mbachu was driving his commercial vehicle when the police accosted him at the Eziagu junction along the Umunze-Ekwulobia road and took him to the Umunze police station where he was later found dead. His body was left in an open place at the station for several hours before the police went to the family to ask them to remove the body.

It said that the family was not even informed of the death, adding that the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) and the Divisional Crime Officer (DCO) have declined to provide the identity of the police man that allegedly caused the death of Mbachu.

But the DPO for Umunze police station, Mr. Christo-pher Ibuzo, a Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), claimed that the late Mbachu died of high blood pressure.

In a death report reference number CR: 3000/ANS/UMD/vol. 2/86, which he addressed to the traditional ruler of Isulo, Igwe J.N. Okoli, the DPO wrote: "I regret to inform you about the ugly incident that happened yesterday. It was about 12.30pm that one Joseph Mbachu of Isulo, who was brought to the police station, suddenly fell down immediately he alighted from his vehicle

"He was quickly rushed to hospital in the midst of his junior brother one Christian Mbachu, where he was confirmed dead as a result of high blood pressure"

"In view of this, I earnestly request you to talk to the family of the deceased on the importance of being law abiding. Treat as very important please.

However, the family of the late Mbachu is insisting that the contents of the letter by the DPO had deepened the suspicion that the police have serious question to answer regarding the death, adding that he was hale and hearty when he left home for work.

According to the family, the incident that led to the death of Mbachu was witnessed by many people because it happened on a very busy road, adding that the deceased was never rushed to any hospital and there was no autopsy performed to ascertain the cause of death.

Also, Christian Mbachu, who the DPO said Relevant Links

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