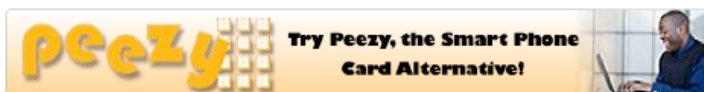


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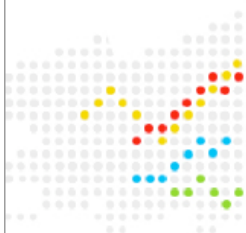
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## Police shot dead engineer

Written by EMMA AMAIZE  
Wednesday, 10 September 2008

*\*Claiming he was an armed robber*

MOBILE Policemen attached to the Quick Response Squad (QRS) of the Delta State Police Command on Monday evening in Warri, Delta State shot dead a 35-year-old marketing representative of the Poliod Engineering Services, Warri, Engineer Gideon Bluff Ovikpokpo, claimed he was a member of an armed robbery gang, but, his family, employer and eye witnesses debunked the claim, saying the victim was returning home from work when he was shot dead.

The atmosphere was still tense yesterday, 24 hours after the incident, as youths and community leaders around the Sedeco area where the incident took place were waiting to know the next line of action from the police.

An eyewitness told Vanguard that the deceased, a mechanical engineering graduate of the University of Nigeria (UNN), Nsukka, was returning home from work when some people inside a Pick-up van raised the alarm that they were robbed and shot at by bandits and the QRS men who emerged thereafter shot him and fled the scene when an angry mob gathered.

The deceased employer, Chief Paul Idemudia maintained, yesterday, that Gideon was returning back from work when he was shot dead by the police, adding, "He was not an armed robber".

Apostle Idogo Ekoh of the Divine Prayer and Faith Ministries, Eketé waterside, where the deceased used to worship and Mr. Ilevbabor Johnson also told Vanguard it was not true that Gideon was an armed robber.

But a couple and his children who claimed that they were robbed by some bandits said the deceased was one of those that robbed them and the police shot him as he was trying to escape. One of the children was shot and Vanguard spoke to him yesterday.

The poser is whether Gideon was mistaking for an armed robber and shot by the police, as information at the disposal of Vanguard suggested that he was not an armed robber.

Chairman of the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR) in the state, Barrister Oghenejabor Ikimi said he was taken aback that the deceased who just left a friend in a restaurant, refused to drink beer on the grounds that it was against his faith, was shot dead less than two minutes after by the police for robbery.

He said that those who witnessed the incident told him that the boy that was shot dead was not an armed robber, adding that the mob took him to two different hospitals because they saw what happened and knew that he was not armed robber before he was confirmed dead.

It was gathered that after shooting the deceased, a mob wanted to arrest the

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policemen and they fired gunshots into air to scare them away before they were able to escape from the scene, but, the woman that said she and other members of her family was robbed dismissed the report, saying it was the gunshots of the robbers that attracted the policemen, who, intervened and rescued them from the bandits that bailed them up.

As at the time of filing this report, yesterday, the Divisional Police Officer for the Enerhen Police Division, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Muazu Mohammed was said to have stepped into the matter with a view to calming down the tense situation over the killing of Gideon.

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