

Police kill citizen Ukpokpo

By Emma Amaize

WARRI—A man David Ukpokpo, was last weekend shot dead by a mobile policeman in the presence of his pregnant wife shortly after settling a dispute between a market woman and a resident at Effurun in Delta State.

Eyewitnesses told *Vanguard* that there was a heated argument at the Effurun market on Saturday, June 20, between a resident, identified as Felix and a market woman over the obstruction to the entrance to the former's No. 11 Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) Road, Effurun residence and Ukpokpo, father of a one year, two-month old Master Praise Ukpokpo, waded into the matter.

He succeeded in resolving the misunderstanding but was shot dead minutes after by some mobile policemen who were invited by the husband of the woman without finding out what exactly caused the dispute that had been settled before they arrived the scene.

"Do you know that the mobile policemen fled the scene after committing the havoc, this is disgusting, I don't know what type of country we are. Imagine how they just killed somebody and ran away", one of the witnesses queried.

In a petition, dated June 23, to the Inspector General of Police, the chairman of the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR) in Delta State, Mr. Oghenejabor Ikimi said, "it is our brief that at about

8:30am on Saturday, the 20th day of June, 2009 which was a market day in Effurun, Delta State, there was a misunderstanding between a resident of No. 11, P.T.I Road, Effurun named Felix and a market woman who was blocking the entrance to the aforesaid compound and in the process, Citizen David Robinson Ukpokpo, now deceased intervened and resolved the said dispute but unknown to the deceased, the said woman had phoned her husband, who in turn had alerted some mobile policemen on duty at Jakpa Junction, Effurun.

"It is also our brief that no sooner had the deceased resolved the said dispute than mobile policemen came to the scene and without warning, shot the deceased who was not armed at close range in the presence of his wife, Mrs. Vivian Ukpokpo and thereafter fled the scene, leaving the deceased in a pool of his blood until sympathizers and eyewitnesses rushed the said deceased to the General Hospital, Ekpan, where he gave up the ghost", he said.

According to him, "It is our further brief that members of the deceased family, including his wife, Mrs. Vivian Ukpokpo, in company of other eyewitnesses went to lodge a complaint of the above incident at the Divisional Police Headquarters, Ekpan same day, but the Divisional Police Officer who was indifferent refused the Investigating Police Officer named Jimoh to take statements from eyewitnesses and members of the deceased family.