

# Cop dies in scuffle with colleague over rifle

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PORT HARCOURT—THIS time it was not policemen and robbers in any gun duel but policemen and their fellows. At the end of the bizarre incident, weekend, in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, one of the policemen who was simply identified as Constable Godwin was confirmed dead and two

others reportedly sustained severe injuries.

According to eye witness accounts, some policemen attached to a commercial centre on Abacha road stepped into an argument between a food vendor and her customer in the area, apparently to make peace.

The argument which reportedly increased in tempo further attracted the attention of some other policemen. Before some onlookers knew what was happening, volleys of gunshots were heard all around. Minutes later, they saw that one of the policemen laid dead on the ground.

Commenting on the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Rita Inoma-Abbey, said the deceased police constable held the rifle of another police constable who was attracted to the scene. The struggle for the rifle, she said, caused it to fire, killing constable Godwin who allegedly held the rifle and injuring two other constables.

She said the corpse of the deceased police constable had been deposited at the morgue, while the other two policemen that sustained injuries were receiving treatment at a trauma centre in Port Harcourt.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer, thirteen shells of AK47 ammunition were recovered at the spot. She also said investigation had begun to ascertain the cause of the development.