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# Protest rocks Onitsha as policeman kills driver over N50

on FEBRUARY 9, 2012 · in NEWS

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BY VINCENT UJUMADU

AWKA- VIOLENT protest sparked off in Onitsha, the commercial city of Anambra State Thursday, over the killing of a commercial bus driver simply identified as Edwin by a trigger happy policeman for failing to part with N50 tip.

According to the conductor of the bus, Samuel Ekwueme who was crying uncontrollably, the police, at Anambra State Broadcasting Service (ABS) Awka Road Onitsha junction check point, had stopped the Coaster bus driver with registration number AA 763 AHB and asked for N50 tip, but the driver gave him the normal N20.

The policeman said to be a Hausa man refused and insisted on collecting N50, but was told by the driver that they just came out and that they should allow them to go and come back.

The conductor said: "The policemen insisted that we must give them N50 before we move. The driver, after pleading with the unyielding policemen, drove off and one of them entered a commercial motorcycle and accosted us at Anionwu street by New Market Road Onitsha where he shot the driver through the bus window and ordered the commercial motorcyclist carrying him to move for him to escape."

The killing of the driver exploded the bottled up anger of residents of Onitsha and the fragile peace in the state that have lost over 30 people to the bombing and shooting of the Boko Haram as residents took to the streets in protest of the killing of the bus driver said to be member of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB).

It was gathered that four passenger in the bus sustained bullet wounds while others in an attempt to escape sustained serious injuries when the bus became uncontrollable following the shooting of the driver by the trigger happy cop.

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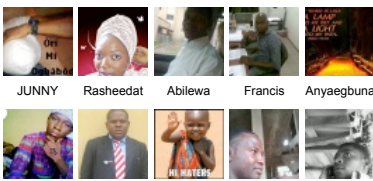
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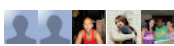
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...the angry protesters

The situation however took a dangerous turn when angry mob comprising of drivers and commercial motorcyclist popularly known as 'okada riders' went on rampage with the corpse of the driver, for reprisal attack on Hausas people in Onitsha.

The bus was said to be fully loaded with passengers who took off from Nkpor junction and was heading to the Ose Okwodu and Onitsha Main Market, when the incident happened.

One of the passengers who gave her name as Ifeoma Obi told Vanguard that "the deceased did not do anything that warranted his killing, adding it was just sheer wickedness on the side of the policeman who because of just N50 wasted this young man's life"

She also said that when the policeman first demobilized the bus by shooting at the tires of the vehicle and it could not move again, a situation she said helped the killer cop to shoot at the deceased from the window on closed range after shattering the glass of the vehicle.

The killing took an ethnic sentiment as Coaster drivers and angry mob in Onitsha

went on rampage demanding the killing of Hausa people on the ground that the policeman who shot the deceased was a Hausa man.

The situation also escalated when angry mob descended on the police team earlier sent by the Anambra State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Muhtari Ibrahim to come and appeal to the rampaging crowd as the team were almost lynched but for the intervention of MASSOB Director of Information, Mr Uchenna Madu who pleaded with the aggrieved protesters that their leader Chief Ralph Uwazurike is against any reprisal attack.

The Onitsha Police acting Area Commander, Mr Roland Omatoje and the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Central Police Station, Onitsha Mr. Abdul Yusuf escaped death by the whiskers when the angry mob descended on them when they led their men to the scene of the incident .



...the coaster bus where Edwin was shot

Reacting to the development, MASSOB leader, Chief Ralph Uwazurike advised his members not to touch any Hausa man but should dismantle every police check point within the zone with immediate effect.

Uwazurike who spoke through his director of information, Mr Uchenna Madu said dismantling of all police check point has become imperative at a time when the security of Ndigbo was no longer safe even in their land.

He however, urged MASSOB members to leave Hausa people alone and concentrate on dismantling all police check points within the zone”.

When contacted, the Anambra State Police Commissioner, Mr. Muhtari Ibrahim said the killer cop had been arrested and would soon undergo orderly room trial and prosecution. He called on the rampaging mob to calm down as efforts to settle the matter had commenced.

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Deway80

Soon on this forum, I will expose the hidden agenda of Northern Nigeria

3 days ago

Like Reply



Joy2\_P

Police people whether male or female are very wicked irrespective of his or her tribe. Government just selected wicked born people and put in one profession, very wicked set of people. Come down in Aba, Abia State and see them in full wicked colour. Let government give good justice

and take care of the dead man. From Joy P. Aka.

3 days ago 1 Like

Like Reply



widewest

Am not surprised with the trigger happy Police man because where he comes from human lives means nothing. Shading the blood of innocent people is an acceptable norm. Blind cattles.

3 days ago

Like Reply



orji

Nigeria is too big to be one country, let the country be divided into two.

3 days ago 5 Likes

Like Reply



Divide\_n\_Conquer

Good suggestion. two, three, four or more...as many divisions as possible, in as much as each group agree to merge and live together. It's an age-long strategy that still works: divide-and-conquer. It's a simple solution to a big and complex problem

3 days ago in reply to orji

Like Reply



Emmanuel Okwuchi

WHO WITH WHO WILL MERGE?

3 days ago in reply to orji

Like Reply

1 Like



Nonso Ngonadi

Governor Peter Obi's comments about this willful murder as reported in the media today is so distrauting to say the least. One should have expected Obi to make a strong statement about this. But no! Instead he was more interested in telling the world just



how calm his State was and the normal politician's rhetorics of 'having everything under control'. Shame. No notable Igbo politician has taken a strong position on the massacre of Igbos in the North by Boko Haram, because they're all afraid of being perceived as ethnic politicians. Shame!

3 days ago 4 Likes

Like Reply



Olufemi adeniyi

Has killing become our culture or it is the only skill in the armoury of NPF. Indiscipline, corruption and bad tactic policing. Nigerians deserve better policing, Policing that will respect dignity of people, law of the society, culture and values of the people they operate in, respect fundamental human rights of the citizens of Nigeria, respect Police profession as a noble profession. But in Nigeria, police has never been seen or recognised as a noble profession for the best in the society, it is a job that is meant for the drop outs, those that do not know their left from their right. Nigerians deserve better. How I wish this policeman that valued 50 naira more than the life of a fellow Nigerian is caught and brought to speedy justice so that these people will know that Nigeria belongs to Nigerians and not to NPF or to NA. May God save Nigeria from ENEMIES WITHIN

3 days ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



Divide\_n\_Conquer

God bless you Olufemi for that wonderful picture of what the Nigerian police should and shouldn't be. Like you rightly noted, our policemen and women are sourced from the lowest possible rank of societal never-do-wells. I personally witnessed a DPO make excuse for one of his men that extorted a motorist by saying "he will

be better checked as a rogue in the NPF than a criminal in the general population". Then, I thought that made some sense, but not any more.

3 days ago

Like Reply

in reply to Olufemi adeniya



Arole

Is the IGP listening? Can he ordered the dismantling of these "Ole Gates" call road blocks!

Information had it that, the illegal proceeds from these "Ole Gates" circulates from the roads to the DPOs, to Area Commanders, to the Commissioners of Police, to the Zonal AIGs and finally the DIG Operation and IGP.

Abubarka must probe Nigerians wrong by dismantling these artificial Toll Gates today.

The old order of hiding under poor remuneration is gone. Most Nigerian University Graduates today earned less than N30,000 a month as salaries, while ORDINARY primary Six Police Constable earned over N47,000.

Enough is enough, Nigerian must stand for our rights.

3 days ago 1 Like

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