

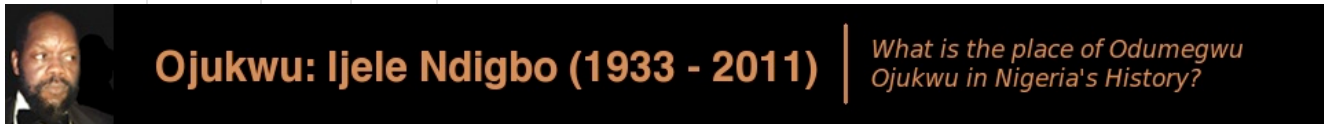
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Tue 21 Feb

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Police inspector shot dead by patrol team

on FEBRUARY 21, 2012 · in [NEWS](#)

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By TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—A Police Inspector, Clement Onwueguta, attached to Uwani Police Division in Enugu South local government area was shot dead weekend by a police patrol team which mistook him for an armed robber.

Four members of the police patrol team who killed the police officer have been detained and are currently being interrogated, with a view to ascertaining the person that actually fired the shot.

Vanguard learnt that the deceased police officer, who was dressed in mufti at the time of the incident on Friday night, was sighted with a pistol along the Railway Line at the

end of Aku Street within Ogui New Layout and was ordered by the police patrol team from Ogui Police division to stop for a search.

Rather than complying with the directive, the late inspector reportedly took to his heels, prompting the patrol team to give him a hot chase.

State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, who confirmed the incident yesterday, said the inspector was running toward the Uwani police barracks, which is about 100 metres away, when one of the police men shot him.

He said: "Inspector Onwueguta was not identified as a policeman when sighted from a distance somewhere along Aku Street, which is under Ogui Police division.

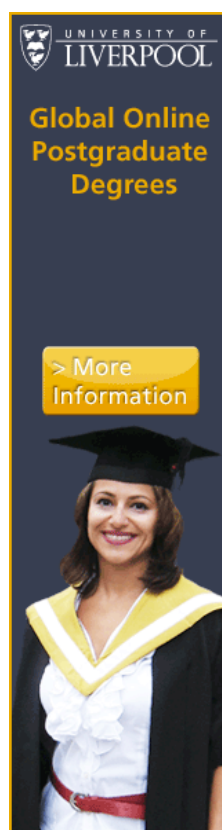
"People always trek from Edinburgh Road to Uwani through Aku Street and reports available to us show that hoodlums always attack people within that area.

"On that fateful day, February 17, men of Ogui Division had gone out on a routine patrol at the black spot. When they were coming, they sighted somebody from a distance and thought he was a hoodlum. The policemen shouted at him to stop but he took to his heels because he was alone.

"The operatives gave him a hot chase and in the course of the chase, the policemen heard a gun shot believed to have come from either one of them which eventually brought him down.

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“On getting to the spot where he laid, the policemen searched and found on him a Beretta pistol and police ID card bearing the name Inspector Clement Onwueguta.

“It was a clear case of mistaken identity but members of the patrol team are already being interrogated. It was, indeed, an unfortunate incident.”

Meanwhile, the corpse of the police inspector who hails from Rivers State, had been deposited at an unnamed hospital for autopsy.

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elimigbe

The inspector is to share part of the blame. As a police officer, he should have known what to do rather than running away. The normal thing would have been to wait and identify himself since the team was made up of his colleagues. His suspicious running suggested that he must have been there for something evil which prompted his running. Secondly, our policemen are not properly trained on the use of gun. In such a case the man should have been shot to demobilise him and not outright killing. Police menace is a recurring decimal in this country and only God can change them.

1 hour ago 7 Likes

Like Reply



barram

Lets get this right: before they opened fire

on him they did not know he was armed hence having a gun on him is insignificant, if the deceased had been a hoodlum anyway but unarmed they still would have shot and killed him simply for running away from the police.

If there is one thing the police officers in Nigeria should know is that no sane Nigerian will be willing to allow himself to be stopped for a search in what is reported to be a dangerous area where hoodlums attack people he would want to get away if there is any chance unless you are prepared to spend money for bail or spend the night in a police cell for actually doing nothing. So its irrelevant that the deceased is a police officer, unless i am wrong in such a situation the officers are supposed to fire a shot into the sky and that is only when necessary.

Something has to be done fast about the attitude of our police officers, its hardly news these days hearing they killed someone for no good reason.

2 hours ago 2 Likes

Like Reply



Okaonye

Folks, there are more to this than we are reading here. Why must a police officer of the rank of an inspector armed with his service pistol and his identity card run from other field officers of his force? Were the field men dressed in any way that would have made the officer to suspect their identities? An inspector is not new to seeing a stop and search team of police men of which he is a bonafied member, moreso, when he had his identity on him. This report said that his pistol was found when they searched him, which means it was not even visible. Why must they fire to kill him? They could have at worst demobilized him. If he were to be a civilian now, the case would have taken a

drammatic dimension with the field men trying to find means to justify the killing. Our police needs to be trained to the demands of modern policing and protection of life, which is there primary responsibility. What again is the meaning of detaining the four field men to ascertain who fired the shot that brought him down. Could our police just be professional for once? If they can't own it up, then get your forensic experts to work. Let them analyse the killer bullet and see the gun that fired it and to whom it was assigned but this is possible if there is a record of who is a signed what. It is very painful that our men will continue to fall this way. Our condolence to this family thrown into this confusion and pain, may his soul rest in peace.

2 hours ago 2 Likes

Like Reply



liebemama

come to think of it----why did he run? when he was one of them.secondly the nigerian police are not and will never be professional, how can a ploice man gun a man down just because he ran.-----i weep for nigeria.

2 hours ago

Like Reply



abiamone

Nigeria is under seige. In tis atmosphere, not even those who are supposed to protect lives and properties are safe.

2 hours ago

Like Reply



ndon

police versus police

2 hours ago

Like Reply



nwokeife

I don't believe this story. A Police Inspector, ran when ordered to stop by fellow officers? These guys should cook up a better story than this one o!

Some people don't drink Ogogro! some don't smoke Igbo! how do they know when they do? These days the Police is more dangerous than the Armed robbers. Make God help us O!!

2 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



etetee

Dog eat Dog, Na wa for Naija Police ooo

2 hours ago

Like Reply



nsakabasi

what i don't understand in this incident is, why didn't the deceased comply and identify himself to his colleagues. why did he run. if he ran because of fear that the police men could be armed robbers, then it wasn't bravery. he had a gun on him and could have at least engaged them in a shoot out before escaping. dead men don't tell tales if not i don't believe the deceased ran. this is an excuse by the erring officers to cover their mistakes.

2 hours ago

Like Reply



MAHANTA_LOVE

I DISAGREE WITH THE SPURIOUS STORY THAT LEAD TO THE DEMISE OF THE INSPECTOR. EVEN IF HE TOOK TO HIS HEELS WITH A CAR, WHY NOT FLATTING HIS TYRE TO HALT HIM? IF HE TOOK TO HIS HEELS WITH HIS LEGS, WHY NOT SHOT HIM ON THE LEG? YOU ALREADY SIGHT SOME BODY WITH A PISTOL, YOU KNOW SOME ONE WITH A PISTOL CAN NEVER OVER POWER YOU WITH AK47. THERE IS MORE TO WHAT LEAD TO THE SHOT AT THE INSPECTOR