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Vulcaniser killed as customs chase smugglers

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By DAUD OLATUNJI

ABEOKUTA — Tension has gripped residents of Oloparun town in Oke-Odan in Yewa South Local Government Area of Ogun State following the alleged killing of a vulcaniser, Lekan Ogunmiti, by a custom officer while pursuing smugglers.

Vanguard learnt that one of the custom officers allegedly shot Ogunmiti, who was driving a Mazda car, dead while pursuing some smugglers who evaded arrest by the officer at Oke-Odan.

It was gathered that immediately after the incident, some youths chased the customs officers and beat one of them to a coma

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while they set three vehicles including one of Hilux vehicle of the service ablaze.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr. Muiyiwa Adejobi, said the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ikemefuna Okoye, was in Oke-Odan to persuade the protesters who had blocked all the major roads.

Ademuyiwa said Okoye would also visit the monarch of Oke-Odan to seek his assistance in the matter, adding that the command had taken over the matter and would investigate it.

Reacting to the allegation of the killing by his men, the Public Relations officer of the Nigeria Customs Service NCS, in Ogun state, Thike Ngige, described the victim as a smuggler, who according to him, attempted to evade arrest before he was shot dead.

He alleged that Lekan was among smugglers who carried frozen chicken into the state through Oke-Odan and "aiming at killing the officers by hitting them. They brought in the contraband in seven vehicles and all the vehicles escaped arrest but one. It was an attempt to deflate the tyres that led to his death."

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kudos for the security agencies. It shows that battle well began is already half won

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