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## Policemen beat driver to death over bribe

BY ALBERT AKPOR

Lagos State security outfit, Rapid Response Squad, RRS, yesterday, in the Egbeda area of the state, reportedly beat a bus driver to death at an illegal checkpoint for refusing to bribe them.

fusing to bribe them.

According to sources, the driver identified as Taiwo Ogundipe, was accosted about 10p.m, in his bus, number-plate XB224FST, by the team with patrol van marked RRS274 at a bus-stop close to a popular eatery with a demand to part with an undisclosed amount.

amount.

Ogundipe, said to be an orphan from Osun State, was reported to have told the team, led by a Police Inspector that he had paid for the night as was the practice, but his entreaty was ignored by the policemen who dragged his conductor down and threatened he would not go until he paid.

Irked by the uncompromising attitude of the policemen, the driver attempted to leave the scene but he too was held down by one of the policemen for what they called 'disregard for their superior.' They allegedly descended on him beating him to a pulp.

An eyewitness told Vanguard that the rampaging policemen resumed beating the driver until he passed out close to the eatery. Reports said the policemen immediately zoomed off in their van when it was apparent that the man might not survive the beating. The victim was later rushed to a

confirmed dead shortly after.
Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Ngozi Braide, said she had not been fully briefed on the matter.

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disturbing riolent acts in Nigeria have to experience social stigma, bear the responsibility of paying the bills for the treatment of any injuries sustained, regardless of the cost and if they decide to bring civil action against their offenders; they bear the cost for that as well."