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# Naval rating kills newspaper vendor in Abia

on AUGUST 1, 2012 · in **NEWS** 1:00 am



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By VINCENT UJUMADU

AWKA—NEWSPAPER vendors in Onitsha almost took to the streets yesterday to protest the alleged killing of one of their members, Mr. Chukwudi Onukaji by a trigger-happy Naval Rating at Nnoyi Junction in Isiala Ngwa South Council Area of Abia State.

The late Onukaji was said to be based in the commercial city of Onitsha, Anambra State where he plied his trade



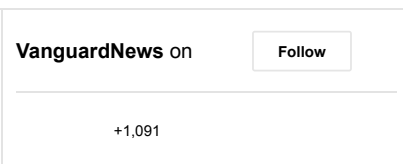
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Vanguard gathered that the 23-year-old vendor, fifth in a family of nine, from Amiyi village in Umuelele community in Isialangwa South Local Government Area of Abia State met his untimely death when he accompanied his relatives to the burial of one of their brothers.

He was until his death, a member of the Onitsha Newspaper Directors Distributors Association ONDDA.

Onukaji had gone home in company of some members of the Anambra State Vigilance Service for the burial of one of the security men who died in auto crash.

Narrating the incident, an eyewitness, Mr. Emeka Nwankpa, a newspaper vendor in Onitsha who was among the people that went for the burial, said the annoying thing was that the Navy refused to release the body of the deceased for burial despite pleas from people.

Nwanpka said: "The incident happened when we took the corpse of a security man, Mr Emmanuel Achunne who was serving at GRA, Onitsha, who died in auto crash, home for burial in Nnoyi in Isialangwa South Local Government Area.

We were in a convoy of about ten vehicles, including the ambulance conveying the corpse of the deceased and the Hilux vans belonging to the vigilance group in front and another one at the back. When we got to Umuikaa junction near Oweerinta, we met a terrible traffic jam, so we diverted to follow a local route and it was when we had got there that we found out that the traffic jam

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Shango Olokun

Frankly speaking many will remember you for your foresight, we all know he'll be remembered but as you well know Nigerians for, they like joining the raining wagon without accessing for themselves...













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was caused by Naval officers at Umuikaa junction.

“When we got inside the deceased compound which is near the junction, one of the Hilux van was missing. The first Hilux van carrying the vigilante group and the ambulance were parked and we heard a gun shot in the air. It was at that moment that we were told that naval men were holding the remaining Hilux van carrying the other members of the vigilante. We explained to them that we are not armed robbers and that we came for burial.

“At this juncture, the Naval officers had disarmed the security men and ordered them to lie face down and when they approached the senior naval officer, he jumped out of his vehicle and ordered everybody to lie down and in the process, opened fire on the security men and it was in the process that the vendor was shot. When the naval officers noticed what they have done, they retreated and stayed in their van while the boy was still writhing in pains and bleeding profusely from the gunshot wound.

“We then agreed that we should take him to the hospital but to first of all make entry in the police station. That was when the naval officers took the boy into their van and on our way to the police station, they diverted and took the boy away to their naval base at Owerrinta where he died after losing so much blood”

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Sele

@ Frank yes u are correct on how effective vigilantes are in the south east, however it is illegal for vigilantes in one area to leave with thier arms to another area. this is especially true for vigilantes in anambra state. so it was wrong for armed men to drive all the way to abia state. members of vigilantes are not registered and are known only in the area in which they operate.

2 weeks ago 1 Like

Like Reply



Williams Egbuta

Mr. Frank Shout-up... what do u know about vigilante group???

2 weeks ago

Like Reply



Henry Okere

vigilance group in anambra and abia state are authorised to carry arms,they even work together with other security agencies in both states. believe you me a team of naval men cannot stand a band of criminals in a ten car convoy. hence the navy men had no reason to shoot. he should have been used to seeing the vigilance guys with thier guns in abia state.

2 weeks ago

Like Reply



frank

Mr FrankNero ФРАНКЛИНУ Ufomadu;

You Mr FrankNero do not know what you are asking for. I am sure that if you are conversant with the events at home; the

East, you will know that these Vigilante groups are more important than even the local police who would always arrive at robbery scenes after the robbers are gone. The Vigilantes I do know take on the robbers head on and deflate them as always even in my town in Anambra State. I tell you very sincerely, if those vigilantes were armed robbers on that siad day, there will be no Naval checkpoint there. They will all retreat and claim reasons bordering on inferior fire power, lack of information etc. So please do recommend more appropriate training for the vigilante but never talk about proscription. There are bye-laws establishing the outfit for your information.

2 weeks ago 1 Like

Like Reply



Garbaa

Hilux vans belonging to the vigilance group are they carrying arms.if yes were do they got the arms?

2 weeks ago 1 Like

Like Reply



FrankNero ФРАНКЛИНУ Ufomadu

All these vigilante group should be banned, is the government is not ready to give them proper training.

Who authorized them to carry gun on the road?

Where in the constitution did they derive their powers to be armed in the first place?

Can this guys explain why they will be armed all the way from Anambra state to Abia state?

Now they have caused the death of a young man.

2 weeks ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



Nwajagu\_mike

Mr Ufomadu,I wish that it was your brother or yourself that fall victim to this

very Navy madness issue. How on earth do you justify it normal for a Navy that supposed be protecting us and our border through the sea turn around slaughtering the innocent civilian? I believe something must be wrong with your brain. How many times have them idiots stopped or confronted the mad boko haram group that is terrorising the whole nation for no just cause, or is it because it's an Igbo man's death that gave you the impetus to talk rubbish here. No wonder they said that when carrying another mans dead body, it seems to others as if it is a bundle of firewood. Well, one day you will live to remember this day before you die. If not for our so called leaders in the South East, this can't happen and go free. Our patient to all kind of nonsense killings against our people (IGBOS) is coming to an eye for an eye sooner than you may ever think. Mark this word today and watch out.

2 weeks ago

Like Reply

in reply to FrankNero

ФРАНКЛИНУ Ufomadu



Chike\_Afanna

Although you are right to a great degree especially the fact the "vigilantes" carried arms across state line (plus any curious person would ask why carry arms to go bury a dead peer), however you failed to say what reason the NAVY had to shoot to kill especially since there's nothing in the report that indicated the "vigilantes" resisted the NAVY.

Stretch the argument further and the question would be what in the world the NAVY - trained in military subdue foes

at all cost tradition - are doing on civilian street? Of course I posed this question to those who understand the elements of democracy and not everyone who can hit computer keyboard keys.

Note I used the word vigilante in quotes and that's because this is truly a case of one man's meat. They provide security services to the people who hired them and their service became necessary because of the gross inefficiency of the federal police. You asked whether the constitution authorized them to carry gun. I don't know whether you know that long before colonialism and their unworkable creation called Nigeria, Igbos had "Ndi Nche" which translates to Watchers (or security people) and that the tradition helped Igbos a lot during the war in the form of civil defense. That Igbos use Ndi Nche when they are threatened in their homes and neighborhoods.

These people may have done in wrong carrying arms across state line but I am yet to understand why they should be killed even when in their stupidity they seem to have obeyed the Naval people's orders. In civilized societies we would also be talking about how many Naval people in custody. And worse the Naval people killed the young man and seized his body. Why? Sometimes Nigeria news reads like prehistoric, pre-civilization tales from pre-Byzantine empire.

2 weeks ago

Like Reply

in reply to FrankNero

ФРАНКЛИНУ Ufomadu

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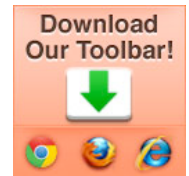
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