

How Imufu community vigilante head was shot

By Francis Igata

ENUGU—THE family of Chukwudi Omeh, who was the head of Imufu Community Neighborhood Watch Group, in Enugu-Ezike, Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area of Enugu State, has cried to relevant authorities, seeking justice over the alleged killing of their brother in the line of duty.

Omeh allegedly met his untimely death last March following a distress call from a neighbour not knowing it was a booby trap.

Victim's younger brother narrates

Amandi Omeh, younger brother to the deceased, who wept uncontrollably as he spoke to *South-East Voice*, revealed that the incident, allegedly perpetrated by one John Eke, was said to be a reprisal over an unfinished business.

According to Amandi: "My brother was at his residence when he received a distress call from John Eke's wife, Uzor, telling him to come to

his rescue following the beating from her husband, John.

"He immediately left what he was doing and rushed to the scene. One seeing Chukwudi, John quickly pulled his gun and shot him, claiming he was a trespasser at his residence.

"John and wife were arrested, detained at Enugu Police command where they were subsequently arraigned before a magistrate's court and remanded in Enugu Prison. Our worry is that the incident happened at Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area.

Locus for jurisdiction

What is obtainable is that the police should have arraigned them in an Nsukka Magistrate's Court where there is locus for jurisdiction.

"He should have been remanded in Nsukka prison, not Enugu where the incident happened. Now, our fear is that a syndicate within the police that specializes in fronting and forging papers on the pretence that parties to



Late Chukwudi Omeh

a case have agreed to settle, has infiltrated this matter.

"The Enugu Department of Public Prosecution, DPP, called us last week. When I got there, the man in charge brandished a document showing that there was an agreement between us and the culprits for settlement out of court. There was no such agreement and there will be none because justice should be seen to take its cause.

"We are now afraid that the police may have been compromised. We are increasingly worried that there will be no diligent prosecution in this matter. That is why we are crying out for intervention from relevant authorities to forestal John Eke's bail without the wheels of justice rolling to logical conclusion.

Police mute

South-East Voice entreaties to the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, DSP, for reaction on the matter, was futile as no response came from a text message sent to him at the time of filing this report.