

•The Arhores and their children

•The couple

# Storm in Edo over death of pipeline fitter, Isaac Arhore

- Widow petitions AIG, demands investigation of husband's death
- All they wrote in the petition are lies—Okoye
- I know nothing about N1m inducement to close case—DPO

By Simon Ebegbulem

**B**ENIN—THE strange death of a pipeline fitter and welder working at Safety 2000, a Benin-based company in Edo State, Mr. Issac Arhore, February 24, has ignited a controversy, following an allegation that both his employers and police were covering up the true circumstances of his demise.

Widow of the deceased, a father of six children, Mrs. Kevwe Arhore, in a petition to the Assistant Inspector General of Police, AIG, Zone 5, Benin City, through the Human Rights Defenders Organization of Nigeria, HURDON, Warri, Delta State, claimed that a Divisional Police Officer, DPO, in Edo state offered her N1 million to forget

safety booth and helmet in the room, which made them to ask questions as to how the man could have gone to work without safety tools.

## Visit to police station, mortuary

According to her, "The company took us to the police station where they claimed that the issue had been reported, but when they went to the mortuary to identify the corpse, they discovered that a sharp object like a dagger pierced through the ribs. We raised this issue with the DPO, Ugbowo, who ordered a thorough investigation into the matter, but on a second visit to the DPO, the DPO called them aside and told them to look for a good lawyer that he has been transferred."

## Compensation of N1m:

"The widow said the new DPO

called them late N1million, which hence we came. Rights Organization. We hereby appeal personally to an independent investigator to investigate the case and bring the perpetrators to justice. The mother of the deceased described her frustration as a woman whose husband's family refused to collect N1million for the case, vowing never to collect money will never help the alleged killers nor will it help the six children."

## Mounting pressure

She said: "I was shocked when my husband was killed on March 24, 2000."