

How police killed my husband — Wife of A-Ibom NURTW chairman

By Chioma Onuegbu, Uyo

FEAR of reprisal attack has enveloped Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, following the gruesome murder of the Chairman, Nigerian Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Comrade Ubong Udo Udofia, by angry policemen.

Comrade Udofia, 45, popularly called: 'Evolution,' was alleged to have been clubbed to death by four Policemen, after trying unsuccessfully to kill him through direct shooting.

Speaking to some newsmen at their residence at 179, Ikpa Road, Afaha Oku, Uyo, the state capital on yesterday, wife of the deceased, Margareth, explained in tears that her husband met his untimely death during minor argument with a policeman that led to full blown brawl. Narrating her ordeal, she said: "I was just returning from the market when I was called suddenly to witness what happened to my husband. When I got to the place, my husband was already gasping for breath until he gave up in my presence.

"A Policeman had parked his car and was loading passengers near the Itam Motor Park, when members of the task force working for my husband accosted him and directed that he should enter the park and load so that others would not emulate him." According to her, when the task force members demanded for the car key, the policeman refused.

The car, it was gathered, was pushed into the park on the orders for the deceased to adjudicate on the matter.

"My husband was inside another vehicle waiting for the car owner, not knowing he had called four of his colleagues, who arrived and immediately opened fire on him. But when the bullets could not get at him, they resorted to using gun butts to beat him till he became unconscious.

"Several other policemen attached to Julius Berger, were called for more reinforcement, and more sporadic shooting followed that led to people scampering for safety including the task force officers," she explained.

Mrs. Udofia, who lamented over what would become of her nine children following the death of her husband, called the Inspector General of Police (IGP), the state Police Command and the government of Governor Udom Emmanuel, to ensure justice was done in the case.

"We have nine children to take care of and the eldest is just 15 and none has entered the university. So my appeal is that my husband should not die in vain because all the evidence point to deliberate and premeditated murder because my husband and the task force members did not beat the policeman.

"All they did was just to direct him to comply with the regulation of loading in the park and not constitute road nuisance by loading on the road side because touting is illegal in Akwa Ibom.

"Luckily, one of the policemen who took part in the killing of my husband was trying to escape from the scene and unfortunately, his identity card fell off his shirt. It was picked up as evidence on the scene.