



MOPOL kills Ironbody, Lagos NURTW strongman, for stepping on his boot

●Ironbody apologised to the officer's uniform—Eyewitness

By Monsuru Olowoapejo
& Esther Onyegbula

PANDEMONIUM broke out at Council Bus Stop along Idimu-Ikotun Road, Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State, yesterday, after a man said to be a member of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, Mr. Ahmed Segun, popularly known as Ironbody, was allegedly shot dead by a yet to be identified mobile policeman, MOPOL.

The incident, which occurred at about 9p.m. on Tuesday within the premises of a car mart at the Bus Stop, Vanguard gathered, threw the community into mourning, as many especially commercial drivers were yet to come to terms with the reality that Ironbody, who became popular for his boldness and generosity, is no more.

When Vanguard visited the scene at about 9a.m. yesterday, it was observed that the popular Council Market and all adjoining shops were shut.

Also, bonfires were sighted on all the roads linking the bus stop, especially Powerline and Liasu Road, where residents said was the major point for the clash that ensued after between the youths and policemen.

It was gathered that the deceased's offence was that he stepped on the boots of the mobile policeman, who alongside his yet-to-be identified colleague, was deployed to provide security for the car mart.

Eyewitness account

A resident, Abdul-Waheed Olayinka, told Vanguard that the law enforcement officer accused Segun of stepping on his boot when the deceased visited the premises and demanded to see the owner of the car mart.

Olayinka said: "When he told him, Segun apologised. But the security officer was not satisfied with the deceased's response, demanding that further apology must be made.

"But Segun, being a bold person, declined to tender further apology, claiming that his apology was to the uniform and not the man. His refusal angered the policeman and he ordered his colleague to beat Segun.

"While the colleague was doing that, the senior police officer was also kicking the deceased with his boots. While trying to force the policemen to stop their action, Segun dragged the policeman, who ordered him beaten, towards the gate.

"It was during this process we heard a gunshot. And what we saw after that was Segun's lifeless body on the ground. He was shot on his forehead."

Another resident, Kayode Olaiyiwola, told Vanguard that immediately news filtered in that

a policeman had shot Ironbody, youths in the community stormed the car mart, attacked the policemen and vandalised several vehicles.

Olaiyiwola added that they also attacked traders and vandalised several commercial vehicles.

According to him, passers-by were not spared from the attacks and several shops were looted by the youths, while protesting Ironbody's death.

The clash between policemen from Ikotun Police Station and hoodlums, Vanguard gathered, intensified when the youths demanded to remove Segun's corpse from the scene.

Eyewitness told Vanguard that

the Police kicked against their request, arguing that an autopsy would be conducted.

It was learned that policemen from Ikotun Police Station had to be helped by operatives of Rapid Response Squad, RRS, to restore normalcy.

Reacting to the incident, Police Public Relations Officer, Bala Elkana, hinted that the Commissioner of Police, Adamu Muazu, had ordered investigation into the crisis.

Elkana noted that the "whereabouts of the said Mobile Policeman is unknown," accusing the deceased and his friends of trying to forcefully gain access into the car mart.

3 policemen shot dead by soldiers in Taraba, free kidnap kingpin

By Kingsley Omonobi & Evelyn Usman

THE Inspector-General of Police Intelligence Response Team, IRT, was again hit by another tragedy following the killing of three of its operatives in Taraba State, Tuesday evening, by soldiers.

A civilian with an undisclosed identity was also shot dead, while other operatives said to have sustained gun wounds were receiving treatment in the hospital.

The deceased policemen, an Inspector and two Sergeants, as gathered, had gone to effect the arrest of an alleged notorious kidnapper (name withheld).

They were said to have been on their way to Jalingo, with the suspects when the soldiers opened fire on them and set the suspect, who was in handcuffs, free.

The Force Public Relations officer, DCP Frank Mba, who confirmed the incident, said the Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, has ordered a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of the operatives.

Mba, in a statement issued yesterday, said: "The Inspector General of Police has ordered full-fledged investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death of three Police operatives and one civilian, who were on investigation activities to Ibi, Taraba State, to arrest a high-profile kidnap kingpin indicted in a series of incidents in the state.

"The Police Operatives, led by ASP Felix Adolije of the Intelligence Response Team, IRT, reportedly came under sudden attack and serious shooting by soldiers of the Nigerian Army, along the Jalingo Road, Taraba

State."

We took them for kidnappers—ARMY

Reacting yesterday, the Nigerian Army explained the circumstances leading to the killing of three Police officers and a civilian in Taraba State by its men.

Acting Director, Army Public Relations, Colonel Sagir Musa, in a statement, said: "We read Police statement on the unfortunate incident that occurred on August 6, in which troops of 93 Battalion, Nigerian Army, Takum, pursued and exchanged fire with some suspected kidnappers, who turned out to be an Intelligence Response Team, IRT, from the Police Force Headquarters, Abuja, on a covert assignment from Abuja resulting in the death and injury of some members of the team.

"The suspected kidnappers, numbering 10 and driving in a white bus with number plates LAGOS MUS 564 EU, refused to stop when they were halted by troops at three consecutive checkpoints, which led to a hot pursuit by the troops.

"It was in this process that the suspected kidnappers, who were obviously armed, opened fire at the troops sporadically thus prompting them to return fire.

"In the resultant firefight, four suspects were shot and died on the spot, while four others sustained various degrees of gunshot wounds and two others reportedly missing.

"It was only after this avoidable outcome that one of the wounded suspects disclosed the fact that they were indeed policemen dispatched from Nigerian Police, Force Headquarters, Abuja, for a covert assignment."