

# Policeman kills truck driver in Ondo over N50 at checkpoint

By Dayo Johnson

**A**KURE—A policeman, yesterday, reportedly shot dead a truck driver for refusing to part with N50 at a checkpoint in Owo, Ondo State.

For fear of being lynched, other policemen at the checkpoint fled into the bush.

The identities of both the policemen and the deceased truck driver could not be

ascertained last night, but the state police command confirmed the incident.

Vehicular movement was halted for hours, as the aggrieved trailer and tanker drivers union in Owo town blocked the highway to protest what they called "the senseless killing of our colleague by policemen at the Uso checkpoint."

They made bonfires at different points in the town, as

commuters were seen stranded and held in the gridlock.

An eyewitness told *Vanguard* that the truck driver, who was heading towards Okene in a green-coloured truck laden with a red Tokunbo car, had an argument with the policemen at the checkpoint over bribe.

*Vanguard* gathered that the truck driver, who refused to offer the bribe to the policemen, was subsequently

shot in the head and died on the spot.

An attempt by police reinforcements to disperse the protesting drivers proved abortive, even when the policemen shot sporadically to scare them.

The protesting drivers refused to leave the scene despite the shooting, following which the policemen drove away in a hurry.

Contacted the police image-maker, Femi Joseph, described the killing of the truck driver as sad and unfortunate.

Joseph assured the public that the culprit would be brought to book.

He said the development "should be treated as an isolated case, because it does not represent the character of the Nigerian police."

Joseph pointed out that a Deputy Commissioner of Police in the command had visited the scene of the incident and appealed for calm.

He pleaded with members of the public to await the outcome of the enquiry by the state police command.

According to him, "we will ensure that the culprit is brought to book. We have visited the scene of the incident and I can assure that the incident will not be swept under the carpet, while the culprit will be brought to book."