

Riot as Police kill tricycle rider over N100 bribe

By Egufe Yafugborhi & Davies Iheamnachor

PORT HARCOURT—As the country is recovering from the violence that followed the #EndSARS protests against police brutality and human rights abuses recently and the subsequent panel of inquiries set up by some state governments to investigate cases of police brutalities, a policeman, yesterday, shot dead a motorcycle rider for refusing to give N100 bribe.

The victim popularly known as School Boy was shot at Elukpokodu Road, Rukpokwu, a link to popular SARS Road, Obio Akpor Local Government Area, Rivers State.

The killing of the motorcycle rider, whose wife reportedly gave birth Tuesday, threw the Rukpokwu area into pandemonium as colleagues of the deceased and some angry youths reportedly took over the road to protest the killing, causing gridlock.

In the ensuing confusion, two others reportedly died as police, joined by vigilante repelled the angry mob's attempt to torch the Rumuokoro Police Divisional station whose personnel was said to have killed the tricycle rider.

An eyewitness, Beniah Emmanuel, said, "Around 6 am this morning, School Boy with a female passenger in his Keke had stopped at the spot to look for change when the police patrol team accosted him. "They asked for N100, but School Boy said he was just coming out for work. The police then made move to impound his Keke and started hitting him. That was when one of the policemen shot him dead."

In the spontaneous street protest that followed, disrupting traffic on the Rumuokoro - Rumukpokwu Road, unconfirmed reports had it that two other persons were shot dead, two others injured as police repelled an attempt by the mob to burn down the Rumuokoro Police Divisional station.

The eyewitness, Emmanuel, added: "They (protesters) took with them School Boy's corpse to the station. They were able to torch the gatehouse at the station as policemen on guard initially took to their heels."

"But there was swift reinforcement of mobile policemen, vigilante (OSPAC) in the area and some army personnel who came in later. The security agents started shooting and tear-gassing to disperse the mob."

"So, the total killing today could be three. The police shot them all. And the area remains tensed. Police and OSPAC have shut that axis of the Rumuokoro expressway to traffic."

Confirming the incident, Police Public Relations Officer, Rivers Command, Nnamdi Omoni, said the officer who shot the victim had been arrested as the police made frantic efforts at easing tension generated by the development.

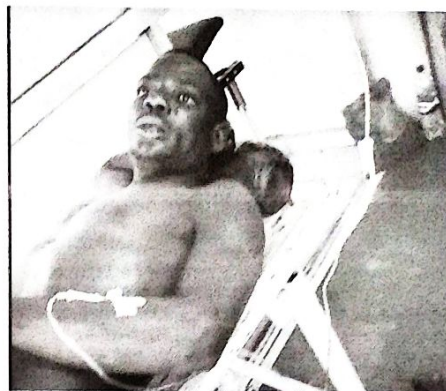
Omoni said: "I am aware of the incident at Rukpokwu. One of our men killed a keke rider this morning. The policeman has been disarmed and he is detained now."

"We have mobilised our men in the area to restore calm and contain a further breakdown of law and order."

"We are pleading for calm to allow us to bring him to justice. Two wrongs can never make a right. The keke driver has died and the man



Vandalised car.



One of the injured in the hospital.

who killed him must receive his punishment.

"Killing a policeman or burning down a station cannot bring him back to life or give him justice; instead, it will deteriorate the situation."

It's so disappointing —

Police arrest 2 kidnappers who abducted American in Niger

By: Kingsley Omonobi

THE Police at Force Headquarters, yesterday, disclosed that operatives of IGP Intelligence Response Team has arrested two members of a 15-man transnational kidnap syndicate involved in the kidnap of an American citizen, Philippe Walton.

The arrest of the suspects followed intelligence, which exposed plans by members of the gang to carry out more attacks on security operatives and foreign nationals, to avenge the death of six of their cohorts.

Recall that Mr Walton, who was abducted from his home in Niger Republic and taken to a forest in Sokoto State, was rescued by US' Special Forces working in synergy with Nigerian security agencies, few days after his abduction.

Force Public Relations Officer, Frank Mba, disclosed these at the presentation of two members of the gang arrested by operatives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Intelligence Response Team, as well as the Force Intelligence

Activist

Meanwhile, coordinator of rights group, Center for Basic Rights, Prince Wiro, has expressed disappointment at the Police for displaying such level of violence on a day the world marks Human Rights Day.

Wiro said: "We call for a thorough

investigation into the shooting to death of a tricycle rider, to bring the perpetrator to book.

"It is highly regrettable that the life of another Nigerian youth was cut short on a World Human Rights Day. The killing of the tricycle driver by a police officer violates the right to life of the deceased."



The suspects.

Bureau.

The suspects, Aliyu Abdullahi and Aliyu Umaru, were nabbed on November 25, during coordinated operations by the operatives.

Mba said six of the suspected kidnappers, four Nigerian and two Nigerian, were killed during the rescue operation of the American while nine other members escaped.

"The two suspects, members of a 15-man kidnap gang of Nigerian/ Nigerian extraction, led by Barte Dan Alhaji and Dan Baba, were arrested following a special intelligence-led operation aimed at arresting the criminal gang, disrupting and halting other criminal activities by them."

My wife sleeps with neighbour, alleges neighbour is impotent, couple tells court

A taxi driver, Kazeem Hamzat, told a Mapo Customary Court in Ibadan, yesterday, to dissolve his 21-year-old marriage to his estranged wife, Mujidat, on ground of adultery.

Hamzat told the court's president, Chief Ademola Odunade, and two other arbitrators, Alhaji Suleiman Apanpa and Alhaji Rafiu Raji that his life was no longer safe living under the same roof with Mujidat.

Narrating his experience, the father of five who resides at Odo Oba area of Ibadan, said he caught Mujidat several times in compromising positions with a bachelor living next door and with many other male co-tenants.

He said: "On a memorable day, I returned from work only to be confronted by Mujidat that we needed to rent a vacant room next to us to add to the one we were using."

"I challenged her on the flimsy reason she gave me, but still agreed with her since I never knew her mind."

"Some days later, I woke up at midnight to the moaning and pleasurable screaming of a woman around our house and decided to trace the room from where the sound was coming."

"I checked our newly-rented room where my wife usually slept, but she was not there."

"I noticed that the moaning was coming from the bedroom of a bachelor living next to our room and I knocked at the door over and over for hours without any response."

"Our other neighbours who also joined in the knocking later appealed to me to leave the matter to God."

"This same issue repeated itself about five days later after which

Mujidat openly mocked me that I would only kill myself if I continued to monitor her movement."

"I never believed such story like this before because I thought they were mere beer parlour talk until I became a victim."

"I also observed that our landlord and a priestess living near us had all along aided Mujidat's promiscuity by always backing her. In her counter argument, Mujidat who earns her livelihood as a cleaner denied the allegation levelled against her and said the bachelor Hamzat was referring to was actually impotent."

Upon her submission, the court asked how Mujidat was able to confirm that the bachelor was impotent only for her to say: "the man's mother said that her son is impotent and cannot sleep with any woman."

"I have never slept with any other man before apart from my husband."