

Customs kill one in Ogun

By James Ogunnaike

ABEOKUTA — Pandemonium broke out in Osu town, Obafemi Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State, yesterday, when the Federal Operating Unit, FOU, of Nigeria Customs Service, NCS, allegedly killed a middle-aged man.

It was gathered that the men of the FOU of the Nigeria Customs Service were chasing some suspected smugglers when their vehicle hit one Mumuni Juwon, a lotto operator, who died instantly.

It was also gathered that immediately the incident happened, the Customs personnel abandoned the victim and their vehicle.

A source said when the people discovered that the Customs men had fled the scene, they drove the vehicle and the corpse to the Federal Medical Centre, Idi Aba, Abeokuta.

An elder brother to the deceased, Muftau Mumuni, lamented that his younger brother was just from a bank where he had gone to lodge money collected from the previous day sales when he was hit by the customs men.

He lamented that immediately he was killed, they abandoned their vehicle and allowed the young man to die.

A legal practitioner, Ganiyu Kusimo, who condemned the killing, called on the government to check the excesses of the customs men, who kill innocent Nigerians on the pretext of carrying out their legal duties.

"Imagine, the young man was killed in his prime. He had two kids and a young wife with an aged mother. Who will now care for those he left behind? I think the government needs to caution these people seriously.

"If you give a man a mile, I can assure you that he will go the extra mile. The rate of evil being perpetrated by these people are just too much, but with this, we will ensure that justice is done."

Contacted, spokesperson of the Federal Operating Unit of the NCS, Peter Duniyan, promised to get back to our correspondent when he has the details of the incident.

Meanwhile, Ogun State House of Assembly has sought the immediate intervention of Governor Dapo Abiodun alongside members of the National Assembly from the state on the need to address the incessant killings of innocent residents of the border towns in the state by officers and men of Nigeria Customs Service.

The speaker, Olakunle Oluomo, made the call while responding to the presentations of the state lawmakers from Ogun West senatorial district.

Oluomo noted that the killing of innocent people by the customs personnel had become a major issue that required the immediate interventions of political leaders in the state and at the national level, cautioning that the state borders should not be turned to Bakassi.