

The traffic warden rode the owner. Mallam Abubakar made a complaint. He was advised to go to the station, he accosted the station, he accosted the standing by his Vespa. He explained to them what happened and added that he had money in the Vespa. The Police led him to the Vespa and directed him to pick up his belongings. The money was missing. He was then told he was under arrest. When Mallam Abubakar demanded to know the reason for his arrest, the Police severely beat him, dragged him by his feet and threw him into the cell where he was detained for about three hours before being removed to the ITF hospital for treatment. The Police only agreed to have Mallam Abubakar removed to the hospital after he started vomiting traces of blood ostensibly from injuries sustained from the beating he took at the station. Upon discharge from the hospital, he recovered his Vespa but was unable to recover even a fraction of the money.

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In other cases, attempts at extortion result in extrajudicial execution. In November 2007, Daniel Offiali, a 15-year-old and only son of his parents "was reportedly felled by the Policeman's bullet after the driver of a commercial vehicle he boarded disagreed with the Policeman over ₦20."<sup>232</sup> In July 2006, 22-year-old Nkechi Obidigwe of Isiofia, Aguata, Anambra State, was on her way home from a computer training school at Awka Road when she was hit on the thigh by a Police bullet at Onitsha South LG bus stop. A member of a team of Police officers on an illegal operation at the scene had fired the bullet while in the process of extracting ₦20 from a commercial motorbike operator who had declined to pay. The Police attempted to confiscate his bike, at which point a scuffle ensued. One of the Police officers then threatened to shoot the bike operator. In the course of the ensuing confusion, one of the officers fired a shot, apparently to scare the bike operator into submission but the bullet hit Ms. Obidigwe. Sympathisers rushed her to the nearby White Chapel Hospital where she died shortly afterwards. Meanwhile, the Police fled the scene.<sup>233</sup> In February 2006, a Policeman in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, killed one of his colleagues and injured two others in an alleged "accidental discharge" following the outbreak of a dispute with a driver "who proved uncooperative with regard to the ₦20 toll gate fee."<sup>234</sup>

**8.5 Medical Extortion and "One Chance"**  
In Onitsha, Anambra State, and Ibadan, Oyo State, NOPRIN researchers reported what is called "one chance" extortion. One form of this practice involves torturing detainees to pay money to the Police in order to receive medical attention. Families of detainees are also often made to pay for the medical expenses and bodies of their family members for burial. For example, the father of Eke Nwose's father who paid ₦11,000 to the SCID in Panti, Lagos, but never got to return.

Many respondents in southern Nigeria also reported another form of Police extortion popularly known as "bushy" associated with the rush-hour commute in some areas of Nigeria. Men of the Agugu and Mamboru Oyo State, and different Police formations in Lagos use this technique. They will go out in buses, call out passengers for different destinations, usually during the rush-hour commute. Passengers enter the buses in the morning and then commuter buses to their different destinations. They end up in a Police station, where they are arrested for "wandering."<sup>235</sup> They are then taken to their families to arrange for their bail which can be as high as ₦2,000, which may range from ₦500 to ₦2,000, depending on the "wanderer."

Police extortion often also takes the form of "bushy" or protection rackets. For instance, respondents reported that they usually levy what is called "Police station" fines as incentive to the Police to direct them to the station. The complainants and detainees. The complainants are fined as incentive to the Police to direct them to the station. The complainants are accused. The latter is in turn required to pay the Police to secure favourable treatment from the Police while in detention. Detainees who do not pay are given a rougher time in detention than those that pay. For example, a commercial motorbike operator arrested at No-man's Land Police Station in Kano reported that NOPRIN researchers how he was "thoroughly