

Lagos trader killed after bloody fight in market

5th November 2025



By Uthman Salami

A female apprentice, identified as Shadiat Nurudeen, has died weeks after she was allegedly violently assaulted by a male trader at the popular Iga Kosoko Market on Lagos Island, *PUNCH Metro* gathered on Tuesday.

According to a Sunday report by the Islander TV on Instagram, the incident occurred on September 12, while the victim reportedly died on October 21, 2025, at the Gbagada General Hospital after complications arising from the assault.

Some photos of the deceased made available to *PUNCH Metro* on Tuesday showed her with a swollen face and a plaster covering her nostril.

Another video, monitored by our correspondent, captured the victim lying on a hospital bed, appearing to be in severe pain.

PUNCH Metro learnt on Tuesday that trouble started when traders were shutting down the market to mourn the death of a fellow trader on September 12.

During the process, Nurudeen, who was said to be an apprentice dealing in Kampala fabrics at Sunrise Plaza, was packing her goods displayed outside her shop.

The male trader allegedly forced his way into the shop Nurudeen was in, punched her in the nose, and inflicted a deep cut that led to heavy bleeding over a claim that she fell on his counter.

The victim, according to the report, was said to have been rushed to three different hospitals before receiving treatment and stitches for her injury.

She was reportedly advised to rest for two weeks. However, shortly after resuming work, she reportedly began to experience weakness and convulsions.

Nurudeen later reportedly slipped into a coma and was taken to several hospitals before being admitted to Awesome Hospital, Surulere, on October 16, where her condition worsened before being transferred to the Gbagada General Hospital, where she passed away five days later.

A close source who was privy to the incident, Ola Muhammed, told *PUNCH Metro* on Tuesday that the altercation began when a nearby shop counter, allegedly owned by the male trader, suddenly collapsed.

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“She was packing her stock when the announcement was made that another trader had died.

“A male trader, who was also repacking his goods, was nearby when a counter belonging to a neighbouring shop fell. That was when the misunderstanding started,” Muhammed explained.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the incident was reported to the police immediately after the fight broke out and was subsequently referred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for further investigation.

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Following the public outcry after the story went viral, Muhammed told PUNCH Metro that the suspect was said to have been invited by the police.

He said, “After the story went viral on Monday, the police eventually invited the suspect.

“They (the police) had earlier claimed they couldn’t find him. I also learnt that he went to the station with his lawyer, while the bereaved family and market leaders were also present.”

Efforts by PUNCH Metro to get an update on the investigation were unsuccessful, as the spokesperson for the Lagos State Police Command, Abimbola Adebisi, did not respond to calls or text messages sent to her WhatsApp line as of Tuesday.

Nurudeen’s death adds to the growing number of violent incidents recorded in Lagos markets in recent months.

In August, PUNCH Online reported a deadly confrontation in the Mandilas area of Lagos Island, where a trader was stabbed to death during a brawl.

Similarly, the Owode Onirin Spare Parts Market shooting on August 27, according to PUNCH Metro, left six people dead, sparking widespread outrage and renewed calls for justice.