

Ogun man dies after assault over missing N150,000

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By Johnson Idowu

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A 20-year-old man, Jamiu Oseni, has died from suspected complications arising from an assault allegedly carried out by his uncle and several others over a missing sum of N150,000 in the Idowa area of Odogbolu Local Government Area of Ogun State.

PUNCH Metro learnt in a telephone conversation with a relative of the deceased, Akeem Oseni, on Tuesday that the incident occurred on Monday.

Oseni told our correspondent that the uncle had asked Jamiu to accompany him to the farm to assist with farming activities.

He explained that upon their arrival at the farm, the uncle raised the alarm that a sum of N150,000 he had kept in his motorcycle was missing and allegedly accused Jamiu of stealing the money.

The deceased was said to have denied the allegation, but the uncle reportedly dismissed his claims and invited others, who joined him in assaulting Jamiu.

Oseni further narrated that the uncle allegedly sent away the women present at the farm, claiming they wanted to conduct a traditional ritual on Jamiu.

He said, “After our uncle accused Jamiu of stealing the money, which he denied, he went to Omu and brought some people who tied Jamiu and started beating him. Our uncle and about four other family members connived to beat him. They told all the women at the farm to go back home, which means they wanted to perform a traditional ritual for him. They beat him with a charm and brought him home.

“It was the same uncle who went to a police station to request Jamiu’s arrest, claiming he stole the money. On getting to the station, Jamiu fainted and people rushed to pour water on him. When they poured the water on him, a little entered his mouth and he began wrangling. He died in my arms on the way to the hospital.

“All his body was covered in blood. We are all one family and we live opposite each other. He is a nephew of the man who accused him of stealing the N150,000. The money was eventually found after they had beaten him.”

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Also speaking in a video interview obtained by our correspondent, Jamiu’s mother, Modupe Oshikoya, said Jamiu had helped the uncle with domestic chores earlier in the day before accompanying him to the farm.

She noted that the uncle also invited an herbalist, who claimed Jamiu was responsible for the missing money.

Oshikoya continued, “He (the uncle) invited an herbalist, and the herbalist said Ayomide was the one who took the money, but Ayomide insisted he was not the one.

“They started beating him for several hours, and at a point, they told all the women in the farm to leave because they wanted to perform a ritual. They beat him with a charm and took him to my father’s house. When they got to my father’s house, people who saw the scene called me, and I rushed there.

“When I arrived, I learnt they had taken him to the police station. When I got to the station, I saw him in a terrible state. I said we should take him to the hospital, and it was in the process of taking him there that my son died.”

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She called on the Ogun State Government and relevant authorities to ensure justice is served.

When contacted, the Ogun State Commissioner of Police, Lanre Ogunlowo, said he had yet to be briefed on the incident. He promised to get back to our correspondent but had yet to do so as of the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, a senior police officer privy to the matter, but not authorised to speak to the press, anonymously confirmed the incident to our correspondent in a telephone conversation on Tuesday.

The officer noted that the matter was under investigation. “It happened and was reported. It is under investigation,” the source said.