

Manhunt begins for killers of Lagos NURTW leader

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Toba Ajiboye aka Toba Ijaiya

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The Lagos State Police Command has launched a manhunt for the gunmen who killed the organising secretary of the Lagos State chapter of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, Toba Ajiboye, popularly known as Toba Ijaya.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the attackers opened fire on Ajiboye's vehicle on Sunday evening while he was leaving the Fadeyi area of Lagos, where he had reportedly gone to visit.

The NURTW executive reportedly sustained multiple gunshot wounds and was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, but succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Abimbola Adebisi, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Tuesday.

She said, "The incident happened on Sunday, and one person died. He is a member of the transport union in Lagos. Investigation has commenced, while efforts are ongoing to apprehend the killers."

Meanwhile, a source familiar with the incident, who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons, said Ajiboye had visited the community to meet his childhood friends as he usually did.

“He had visited the area on Sunday as he regularly did because that was where he grew up. He was leaving that evening when some gunmen shot at his vehicle.

“He was rushed to the hospital, and we believed he was responding to treatment until we were informed this morning that he didn’t make it,” the source said.

A member of the union, who identified himself simply as Taofeek, told our correspondent on Tuesday that three other occupants of the vehicle were also hit by bullets during the attack.

“There were about three other people in the vehicle. They also sustained gunshot wounds. Their condition is very serious as we speak. The doctors are battling to save them. We pray that they survive,” he said.

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The killing, however, sparked anxiety among residents, who appealed for increased security to prevent any breakdown of law and order.

Also reacting to the development, Adebisi said, “There is no panic in the area. The policemen are on the ground, and more personnel have been added to the team of policemen in the area.”

Photographs circulating on social media showed Ajiboye’s vehicle riddled with bullet holes.

The motive behind the killing had yet to be established as of the time of filing this report.

Reacting to the incident, the Chairman of the Lagos State NURTW, Mustapha Adekunle, popularly known as Sego, mourned Ajiboye’s death, describing him as a loyal ally, trusted friend and committed unionist.

In a tribute posted on his Facebook page on Tuesday, Sego stated that the late organising secretary was a dependable pillar of the union and a strong supporter of his political structure.

“The news of the sudden passing of Comrade Toba Ajiboye has left me deeply saddened and heartbroken. It is difficult to come to terms with the loss of such a loyal, dependable, and committed ally.

“Comrade Toba Ajiboye was more than an ally; he was a trusted friend, a man of steadfast loyalty and unwavering commitment, and a true pillar of TeamSego and SegoNation. His friendship, unwavering support, and selfless dedication to the union over the years will forever remain etched in my heart,” he added.

Sego also condoled with the deceased’s family, friends and members of the union, praying for God to grant him eternal rest.