

# Man shot dead by suspected cultists after picking daughter from school

**R**esidents of the Ikeja area of Lagos State are in shock over the recent brutal killing of man identified as Mr Akiola Akinwunmi, by suspected members of the Aye confraternity, also known as the Black Axe cult group, while on his way to pick his daughter from school in the neighbourhood.

The victim believed to be in his late 50s, was shot dead on April 22, while returning home after picking his daughter from school. Eyewitnesses said two men dressed in black arrived on a motorcycle, popularly called okada and opened fire unprovoked, shooting him in the head at close range.



The victim's vehicle

However, in a dramatic escape, his daughter reportedly ran out of the vehicle into a nearby compound and attempts by the assailants to chase her was unsuccessful, as they had to escape from the scene as the shooting was already generating interest.

They allegedly fired additional shots into the bush to scare onlookers before fleeing the scene.

Though the matter was said to have been reported at the Maryland Division of the Nigerian Police, the whereabouts of Mr. Akinwunmi's wife, Omodele and their children remain unknown, raising further concerns.

While sources suggest that the killing may not be unconnected to Mr. Akinwunmi's political affiliation, as he and his wife had recently left the ruling party in the state to the leading opposition, while raising some allegations against some leaders of the party.

The source said: "The grieving woman and her children has been in hiding so they won't harm the innocent girl, for fear that she may be able to recognize them if apprehended."

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Abimbola Adebisi, had yet to react as at press time.