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FRIDAY OLOKOR

A 25-year-old man, simply identified as Allen, from Ogoja, Cross River State was in the early hours of Wednesday butchered by yet-to-be identified persons who also slashed his throat.

The incident took place in Balogun Street opposite the popular Airport Hotel in Ikeja area of Lagos. Although details of the incident were sketchy at press time, *Daily Champion* learnt from neighbours that a relative of the deceased raised alarm that his brother was killed.

The initial theory raised by Allen's relative who stays with him in a room and parlour apartment was that the deceased was butchered by a prostitute who came to the house in the morning and had an argument with him over non-settlement of her bill.

"The prostitute did not sleep in our house. She came early in the morning and was making trouble with my brother. I ran out to tell my sister, who lives nearby that a prostitute was threatening my brother and before I came back his throat was slashed and his body cut to pieces," he told neighbours.

The relative of the deceased also claimed that the prostitute took N1 million, out of which N500,000 belongs to him.

But residents of the area have punctured the prostitute's theory, insisting that the boy should be properly investigated by the police.

As he was narrating the story, he was almost lynched by concerned neighbours who said they did not believe his story. He was rescued by co-tenants. The young man was said to have, of recent had a serious disagreement with the deceased over money.

When *Daily Champion* called back to the house to get the photograph of the deceased, the area was like a graveyard as the inhabitants had fled their homes to avoid police arrest.

A concerned neighbour said the younger brother should be quizzed for a clue to the murder.

When contacted on the matter, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for Lagos State Command, Mr. Bode Ojajuni confirmed the incident but however said he was yet to be briefed by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) for the area.

The questions being asked by neighbours and residents are:

The Youngman said the deceased was killed by a prostitute when he went out briefly to call his sister. He admitted that they both had a quarrel and that the prostitute took the sum of N1 million. How did she know that there was money? Could a prostitute have been able to kill a fully-grown man effortlessly in the morning? Who saw the prostitute? Was it possible that he died without shout or struggling?

Even though he was silent on whether any arrest has been made, unconfirmed sources said most residents of the house where the incident occurred are being detained by the police.



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