



# Saturday Champion

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## 57-yr-old man slaughtered in Kolanut farm

VICTOR OGUNJE, Ado Ekiti

A 57-year-old retiree of the Union Bank of Nigeria, Mr. Tayo Oluwabusuyi has been reportedly murdered at his kolanut farm at Igede-Ekiti, Ekiti state.

This is just as three siblings and two other members of their family have been arrested in connection with the suspected murder.

The victim, a former mail dispatcher with the Igede-Ekiti branch of the Union Bank of Nigeria, was found dead in the pool of his blood at his farm in the late hours of Saturday, May 30 in Igede-Ekiti, Irepodun/Ifelodun local government area of Ekiti State.

Those that were arrested in connection with the murdered retiree were Ojo Omowaye, Mayowa Omowaye as well as Shola Omowaye, the alleged prime suspects in the massacre and their mother, Ibiyo Omowaye and wife of one of the assailants

Mr. Oluwabusuyi, was reported to have once had a fierce brawl with the trio over the allegation that they were responsible for the several cases of theft in his kolanut plantation, which was settled by some elderly people in the community in the interest of peace.

But the victim was not that lucky on that fateful day, as he failed to return home after he had bade goodbye to his wife, Omolola Oluwabusuyi on his way to his kolanut plantation.

The wife, in an emotion laden tone, recounted to journalists how her late husband departed from their residence at about 7am last Saturday, only for her to wait in vain till 7pm without any sign that her husband would return.

When darkness descended, she became jittery and apprehensive of what could have been keeping her husband in the farm till that late hour of the night.

Said she: "I started having strange feelings that something terrible might have happened to my husband in the farm because he was not the type that never keeps his word, we immediately organised a six-man search party headed by me to look for him in the farm

"When we got to the farm, I shouted his name at the top of my voice, but only to be answered by the echo of my voice, it was deafening silence, it was only the lullaby of the birds in the bush that we heard , my husband was not responding, my fear heightened.

She recounting further that, "We went round the kolanut plantation and the adjacent farms to no avail; but on a second search, all of a sudden, we stumbled on his brutally mutilated lifeless body lying in the pool of his own blood, his eyes wide opened and seemed to be asking his assailants 'Why!'

"Immediately, fell on him, I kissed him, I tried to feel his pulse, I lifted his arm, there was no response, the bleeding was heavy, the machete cut was deep, he was serially dealt with heavy blows from the machete," she said.

Some distant relatives of the deceased, particularly Ojo Omolaye and Mayowa Omolaye, both ex-convicts who are in their 30s and notorious for stealing people's farm products in the community, were fingered as prime suspects.

According to the deceased's wife, her husband had a misunderstanding with the suspects because he discovered that they were trespassing into his farm and stealing his farm products, and consequently warned them to desist from such with the threat of reporting them to the police. However, the duo of Omolayes threatened to kill the late Tayo if he dared report them to anybody or disgrace them in the community.

Mrs. Oluwabusuyi alleged further that when they returned from the farm on that unfortunate day, they discovered that the Omolayes had absconded from town, packing all their belonging along with them.

She said the matter was reported to Chief Oloro, who happened to be the supreme chief in the area, and the culprits were invited there by the elders in the community. After initial denial, they eventually confessed when one of the brothers could not explain how he got the blood stain on his legs.

The traditional ruler of Igede-Ekiti, Oba James Adelusi Aladesuru was immediately informed and the police was called in to arrest the assailants and they are presently being held at the State Police Headquarters, Ado Ekiti.

Supporting the allegation that the suspects were hardened criminals, one Mr. Abelese, a farmer in the community, said the Omolayes have made themselves a terror to the community, adding that about eight years ago, he narrowly escaped being killed by the Omolaye brothers, when he caught them stealing his kolanuts at his farm.

Said he: "I was tied to a stake and was thoroughly beaten; I was left because I feigned I had died. It was my little daughter that ran to call for help before, those boys who are not supposed to live among human beings ran away. Up till today, I still live to tell the tale of their attack on me."

Mrs. Oluwabusuyi alleged that some prominent citizens of the community are mounting pressure on the police to release the suspects, an allegation, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fabian Ojiri denied, saying those suspects would never be released under any circumstances.

"This is a murder case and it is not a bailable offence. Investigation is still ongoing, once we are through with investigation, they would be charged to court," he vowed.