

My husband was shot by policeman while hunting for snails - Wife

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

The wife of a 37-year-old man, Fatima Mohammed, has narrated how her late husband, Yusuf Mohammed aka Alfa was shot dead by a policeman while he was hunting for snails.

The late Yusuf who was a tanker driver and farmer was recently shot dead behind Lekki Gardens estate phase 4 by a policeman attached to the estate.

She said that her husband had gone out on that fateful day along with one of his friends, Michael, to hunt for snails around 10:00p.m which proceeds he was going to use in augmenting his meagre salary.

Oblivious of the reality that her father has gone, Aisha, the one-year-old daughter of the deceased was engrossed in her play with other toddlers while at the same time clutching a biscuit with her right hand when our correspondent visited the widow

who resides in a shanty not too far from the estate.

Fatima said any time it rains, her husband and his friend used to harvest large number of snails and that it was not the first time they had gone out together for hunting in the same bush.

Debunking police allegation that they were thieves, she said that her husband and his friends were well known in the area and had no ulterior motive other than to pick snails.

She said, "His friend, Michael, told me that they were almost through with their hunting expedition having picked large number of snails and were at the verge of packing them into the bag when they heard a gunshot very close. He said that my husband trivialized the whole thing, saying it might be some hunters. He said that before my husband could complete his statement a second gunshot went off and hit my husband on the leg. He said my husband fell down."

She stated that her husband's life would have been saved if the police had allowed his friends to take him to the hospital for treatment.

She said: "The policemen detained them in front of Lekki Gardens phase 4 while Yusuf bled to death."

The 29-year-old widow who is an indigene of Ogun State said she had only a daughter named Aisha for the victim.

Incidentally, Aisha turned one year on the 12th May, 2017, six days after her father was killed by the police.

She said that the incident was first broken to her by a neighbour who ran into the compound to announce that one man was shot in the bush.

"Immediately, I knew the victim might be my husband because I was aware he went out with a friend to hunt for snails. We ran out only to meet him on the ground at phase 4 gate bleeding profusely," she added.