

'My husband changed clothes 5 times before he hurried out to meet his death'

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

The wife of the slain Organizing Secretary of the Oshodi, Lagos, unit of the National Union of Road Transport Workers' (NURTW), motorcycle division, Mrs. Awawu Jimoh, has narrated the last hours of her husband, Biola Jimoh, at their Ilepa, Ifo, Ogun State home before he hurried out to Oshodi where he was killed by factional colleagues.

Mr. Jimoh, alias Ijoba (Government), was shot in the head penultimate Saturday, May 27, 2017 at the Shogunle area of Oshodi, Lagos, during a protest that trailed the All Progressives Congress (APC) local government election primaries. He didn't die immediately; he was rushed to the hospital but finally died by 3:00a.m. the following day, May 28, 2017.

Speaking with our correspondent on Monday at the family house of the Jimohs at the Ile Ogun area of Ikereku

in Abeokuta North Local Government where the late transport unionist was buried, Mrs Jimoh, who is in her 20s, recalled that on the fateful day, a member of the union had called her husband, who was at home with her, to come over to Shogunle, Oshodi, venue of the APC local government election primaries. In Lagos State politics, it is an open secret that NURTW leaders, and even cult gangs, play enforcers in the election and selection of political leaders, from the post of councillors to local government chairmen and, even, to that of governor.

The bereaved widow said her husband was somehow restless before he left home, and she remembered him changing clothes about five times before he finally settled for one.

She said, "He changed from ankara (local fabric) into a jean top, into another and another. I was ill at the time; in fact, I was being given a drip at home, but,

I can just remember now that he was just restless. He even dashed to the 'tarmac' near our house and came again into the house to again change his clothes. I later slept off only to discover when I woke up that he had gone."

She added that it was around 9:00p.m. that a call came in and broke the news that her husband had been shot on the head. "I ran out naked, and since then I have not been myself, especially when the news broke that he had died," she said.

Looking askance at her uncertain future, the mother of two wondered how she would survive to train her kids well. "We never planned this. I trusted him and he also did. I am a trained hairdresser, but ventured into selling herbs when there was no money to set up my hairdressing shop.

"I appeal to government to come to my aid. My husband had great plans for us, but now that he had been killed by

those who think they are more powerful than us, government should come to our aid. In fact, this baby (suckling breast) is one year and one week yesterday (Sunday). My husband had wanted to throw a big birthday party for her, but because he had no money, he promised he would celebrate her second year in a big way next year. But now he is no more. He was such a caring father; with the little he was earning, he never lacked in his matrimonial responsibility," she said.

"Ijoba promised me and I believed him. We are just about two years into marriage. My children are now my world, that is why I am crying out for this assistance," she told our correspondent.

City News gathered at the Jimohs' residence that contrary to the wide belief that the gunmen who killed the chairman of the Lagos State Motorcycles Owners Association in Oshodi, Chief Razak Bello, alias Hamburger,

had killed the latter first and Jimoh was just accidentally in the way, the reverse was the case.

Younger brother to the late Jimoh, Razak, said it was actually his brother who was first shot before Hamburger, who was protesting the shooting, was also felled.

"My brother was the first to be hit and Hamburger was protesting the shooting before he himself was shot at close range. My brother did not die on the spot and that was why people did not know that he was the first casualty. He was rushed to the hospital but died around 3:00a.m. Hamburger and my brother were very close. My brother was one of his loyalists," Razak said.

The remains of Biola were brought to Abeokuta, late last Friday night and were immediately buried according to Islamic rites. His elder child, a six-year-old boy named Rasheed, is now in the care of his grandmother.

