

We were promised N 3m, say killers of Ogun Senator's aid

From Eugene Agha
Lagos

Three suspected killers of Adeniyi Sanni, an aide to Ogun West Senator, Olamilekan Adeola Yayi, on Monday, said their intention was not to kill but to rob people.

The suspects who were paraded yesterday by the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Idowu Owohunwa, admitted that they were offered N3 million to snatch cars from their owners.

The suspects who are all ex-convicts described their sponsors as car dealers, stating that the aid to the Senator was killed in error.

The suspects are Fred Azeez Okunnu, 43; Lucky Idudu Micheal, 33 and

Adedigba Segun, 26.

Sanni was murdered between 1am and 2am on August 5.

Speaking to newsmen, one of the suspects, Lucky, said that he was introduced to their baron who resides in the Republic of Benin while he was in prison.

He said on the day of the incident, he was the one who spotted the deceased vehicle after he was signaled by another member of the gang.

"We never planned to attack the deceased, he was not a target. We stopped him because the car was fairly used (Tokunbo). One of the members of our team, Alfred shot at the victim.

"This is my second operation before I was caught, I joined the gang two months before the incident. I engaged in

armed robbery when I returned from prison. Our usual spot of robbery was Berger in Ojodu, I felt bad when I realized the status of the person we killed."

Another suspect, Fred Azeez, said the deceased was still breathing after he shot him and he was kept in the backseat of the car but he was stabbed to death by Segun, another member of the gang, so as not to draw attention because he was screaming.

"We dropped him on the road and drove the car to Alhaji at the Republic of Benin who asked someone to clear the border for us so that we could deliver the car to him. We handed over the car to Alhaji and he promised to give us N3 million, instructing us to get him another vehicle so that he can pay us altogether.

"The reason why we dropped the deceased on the road is probably he could get someone to help him. I got my weapon through Alhaji based in the Republic of Benin."

Earlier, the CP said the investigation revealed that the gang specializes in robbing motorists of their unregistered vehicles.

He said, "Their modus operandi includes stationing one gang member some meters from Berger bus stop to spot unregistered vehicles. The spotter then calls his gang members who are dressed in military camouflage and stationed somewhere around Berger bus stop to inform them of the approaching vehicle.

"Once they stop their victim, they request for the vehicle's customs papers, as they would need to

clear security and customs checks. In this incident, after seeing the papers, they insisted on taking their victim to their base.

"Once they entered the vehicle, it dawned on Mr Sanni that they were robbers. He called out for help, which made the robbers shoot him thrice and further stabbed him. They dropped his corpse by the roadside and drove to Kuto, Abeokuta where they cleaned up the blood stains in the rear seats of the vehicle and later the same night proceeded with the vehicle to the border town of Chikunda in Kwara State where the criminal receiver took delivery of the car.

"The suspects adopted the use of military fatigue to beat checkpoints. Further investigation has revealed

that the said Alhaji has other cells operating across the country."

He added that being a transnational crime, the command was involving Interpol in the apprehension of this criminal receiver and financier.

"The place of drugs in all of this must not be omitted as the criminals were high on drugs each time they went out for an operation. It is also noteworthy that the judicial system has not helped as all of these suspects have been arrested before for similar crimes and were arraigned. It is sad to find them again free but more hardened. With each freedom they get after prison, they become deadlier and more brutal, in addition to expanding their criminal network," the CP said.