



THE METROSECTION

'Blood on their hands'

• Worries as trigger-happy policemen kill four Lagosians in two weeks

IF they had known, the three young men, Abiodun Awe, his cousin, Babalola and their friend, Aghoghoye Obeto, would have stayed at their home in the Owutu area of Ikorodu, Lagos State, that Sunday, January 17, 2010.

They would, on no account, have gone to the restaurant.

If they had known too, they would not have given Ayo's handset, which had a flat battery, to the bar man to charge for them.

But, they did not have any foreknowledge of what lay ahead when they went out.

In the end, only one of them, Babalola came back home alive.

Policemen allegedly killed the other two, Abiodun and Aghoghoye, that Sunday evening.

But for Babalola, who managed to escape to tell the true story of what happened, the two young men had already been labelled armed robbers by the police.

Speaking to *The Guardian* at their home in Owutu, a few days ago, Babalola said, after eating and a few drinks, they left the restaurant at about 11.00 a.m. and had gone quite a distance when the bar man called them on the phone that Ayo had forgotten his handset, which he was charging.

As they went back to get the phone, they saw a police van being driven towards them, the policemen inside, shooting sporadically into the air.

Out of fear that it could be armed robbers shooting so recklessly, Babalola, Aghoghoye and Abiodun took to their heels.

He recalled that as they were running, the police started shooting at them, during which Abiodun, who was shouting that he was not a criminal, was shot.

"I ran and hid in an uncompleted building while Ayo hid inside the gutter."

From the uncompleted building, I could not see what was happening, but I heard cries of agony.

"Ayo was shouting that the police should stop hitting him with the butt of their guns. Abiodun was begging that they should take him to hospital."

He said out of fear that he would be killed, he hid in the uncompleted building for over two hours until the police took Ayo and Abiodun away.

"If I had not hidden, I too, would have been killed and no one would have heard the true story."

I am still in agony having watched my brother and his friend killed in cold blood."

When he got home and told his relatives what happened, they rushed to the scene, saw pools of blood and feared the worst.

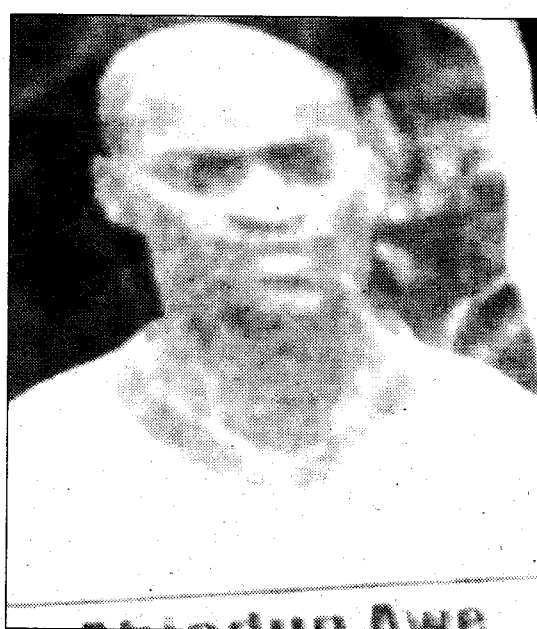
His cousin, Sesan Awe, told *The Guardian* that if the deceased had been taken to hospital, they would have survived.

According to him: "My younger brother was shot at close range on his back while his friend was killed with gun butts. The police hit the gun butts on his head until he went into coma."

But I thank God he was alive for two days before he



• The late Obeto



• The late Abiodun Awe

By Sunday Odita

gave up the ghost."

A grieving Sesan has called on the State Governor, Babatunde Fashola, the member representing them at the House of Representatives, Abike Dabiri-Erewa to intervene so that the culprits are brought to book.

He also called on the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Ogbonna Onovo to prevail on the Lagos State Commissioner of police, Mr. Marvel Akpoyibo to fish out the killers and bring them to justice.

He is also demanding an apology from the police for the brutal murder of their sons and in addition a compensation of N1 billion each for the slain young men.

A source at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, Yaba, where the case is being investigated, told *The Guardian* that three policemen were being interrogated over the murder of the two friends.

Ayo's elder brother, Dennis said: "It was out of sheer wickedness that the police decided to kill the two friends, otherwise, how do you explain a situation where a harmless person had been captured and the policemen went ahead to hit him with the butts of their guns. What offence did he commit?"

The dead have been buried amidst tears and protests by Ikorodu youths who also called on the police to fish out the killers in their midst and bring them to justice.

By Seve Oluide, David Ibemere, Tunde Eso and Oluwatosin Omowumi

the explosion followed by outburst of flames resulted in panic and confusion within the area.

The traffic congestion as a result of the accident was so severe that motorists coming from Mile Two had to find alternative routes from Iyana-Isolo through Mushin, Ilupeju and Papa Ajao to later link the expressway at Toyota or go through Fatai Atere Way.

Vehicles moving from Oshodi and Airport Road towards Mile Two and Cele were also affected because of the gridlock on the Fly-over at Iyana-Isolo.

However, officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) were on hand to ensure the situation

did not get worse.

The explosion comes barely two days after a big commuter bus popularly called *molue*, with registration number XJ912-KJA, fell on its side as it was heading towards Mile Two, near Iyana Isolo Bus Stop.

The accident was blamed on brake failure.

Briefs

Adeboye to inaugurate new province

THE General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor Enoch A. Adeboye will visit Badagry on Sunday, February 21, to inaugurate the new Provincial Headquarters, Lagos Province 31, at 9.00am.

The Pastor-in-charge, I. A. Omatsola and other anointed men of God will attend the service, which holds at Grammar School compound, Badagry.

All parishes under Lagos Province 31 should attend the service in Badagry.

Church marks anniversary

THE Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria, Fagba Zone, will this weekend mark its second anniversary.

The activities lined up for the event include a vigil today at No. 7, Mofolasayo Drive, off Jonathan Coker Road, Fagba, Agege, Lagos. There will be free medical services tomorrow for people living in Oshere, Ifo Local Council of Ogun State.

It will end on Sunday with a worship service/ N25 million fund-raising event at 10.00am.

The Zonal Superintendent, Rev. Michael Bamidele Owoseni, Dele Abegunde, Mrs. Betty Arhebamen and Ikechukwu Ugboja will minister.

AAUA gets new V.C.

THE newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (AAUA), Ondo State, Prof. Femi Mimiko, has again pledged his commitment to the 10-year old university. He decried a situation in which Nigerian universities continued to be poorly rated in the global community.

Mimiko said this during a courtesy call on the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Prof. Julius Okogie recently.

Okogie congratulated the Vice-Chancellor, noting that as a former Deputy Vice Chancellor and acting Vice-Chancellor of the University, Mimiko had no excuse to fail in his current assignment.

He enjoined him to clearly define his mission and be firm in his resolve in administering the university.

Lawanson, 79, for burial

THE death has occurred of Mr. Stephen Olu Lawanson of Akoko Local Council in Edo State at the age of 78.

There will be lying-in-state and Christian wake on Friday, February 26, at his residence. Aiyede Quarters, Imoga, Edo State.

He will be buried on Friday, February 27, after a funeral service at his residence at 10.00a.m.

Guests will be entertained at Catholic Mission field, Imoga.



• Lawanson

Tanker burns, molue tumbles on Oshodi-Apapa Expressway

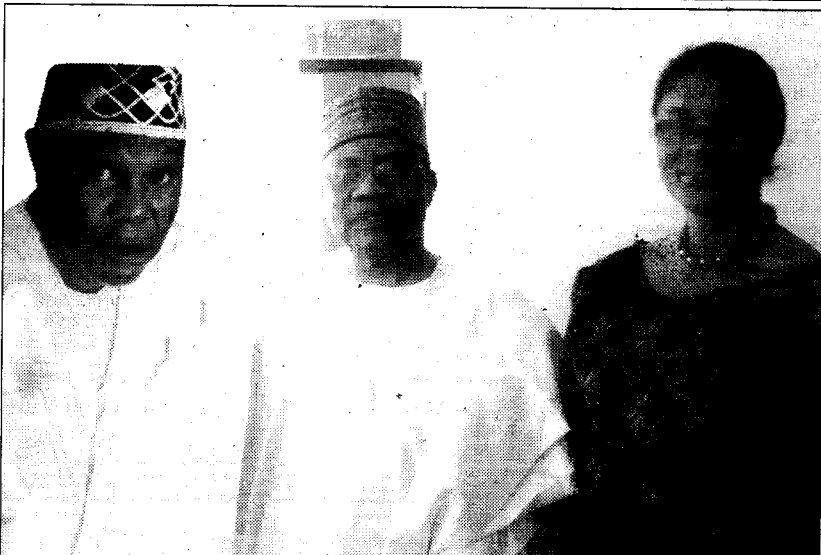
MOTORISTS were, yesterday, forced to make sudden turns and commuters run for their lives on the Apapa-Oshodi Expressway when, at about 12.40 p.m. a truck loaded with fuel, exploded and went

up in flames.

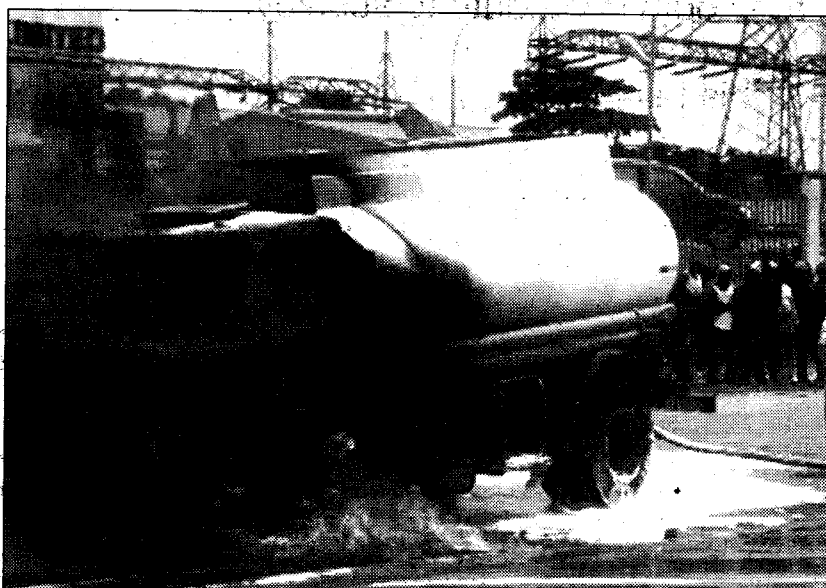
The truck with registration number XM444GE was heading towards Oshodi from the Mile Two area when the incident occurred near Five Star Bus Stop.

The deafening sound of

Condolence



• Former Head of State, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida (middle) during a condolence visit of Brig. Gen. Oviemo Oudje (rtd.) and his wife, Patricia to Babangida in Minna, Niger State over the death of his wife, Maryam...recently



• The burnt tanker...yesterday