

Boy Killed, Nursing Mother Shot In Lagos Mayhem

By Debo Oladimeji

SHOREMEKUN Street in Mushin, Lagos has in recent time not known peace due to skirmishes among residents of the area.

A two and half-year old boy, simply identified as Emmanuel, was allegedly killed by a stray bullet while several people were injured in the latest incident that happened on Thursday night.

Mrs. Monsura Olanipekun, a victim of the clash, who is in a critical condition at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Idi-Araba is still waiting for the bullets to be removed from her chest and the other two that pierced into her legs.

Monsura, in her pains, told *The Guardian* at her hospital bed that she went outside to remove the clothes she spread at 15, Shoremekun Street residence when the bullet hit her. "Before I could say anything, my room was filled with blood. One of my neighbours had to saddle me on his back to a hospital in Mushin where I was referred to LUTH. We are still expecting the doctors

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Boy Killed In Mushin Fracas

Continued From Page 1

to remove the bullets from my body," she said.

Her husband, Mr. Jamiu Olanipekun said the victim had just been delivered of a bouncing baby boy to be named Babatunde on Wednesday. "My mother Mrs. Aisatu Olanipekun, 70, will henceforth take care of the baby," he said.

Olanipekun said he was on night duty when he received a distress call of what happened. "I got home in the morning to hear the ugly incident that happened. Since then I have been in the hospital to take care of my wife," she said.

He said he had been responsible for the hospital bills and all other expenses. "We have

spent about N50,000 and we are still spending. We have not experienced this kind of thing in this area before. We are now living in fear. We don't know the reasons for the fighting. They have been fighting since the last two months," he said.

His mother, Aisatu, who came from Abeokuta, Ogun State to take care of the new baby, said she would take the child to Abeokuta for proper care until his mother fully recovered.

A resident of the area, who sought anonymity, said it was at 8 p.m. on Thursday when some people took over the street chanting war songs amidst sporadic shooting into the air. "I quickly ran and entered the house through the

back door.

"The entrance door of our house is narrow; it was in the process of scampering to enter the room that Emmanuel, our neighbour's son who was also trying to escape was hit by bullet and he later died.

"We don't know the reason for the fight but whatever is the cause, what we are interested in is protection from the police and the state government. This place used to be a very peaceful area until the recent crisis started.

"We cannot sleep again at night. People are now running out of this place. In our compound, we are peace-loving people, we need help."

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PRO) Mr. Frank Mba, who confirmed the incident, said the situation is now under control and that the residents have been told not panic as the police are providing enough security to them.

"The police have provided enough security to guarantee peace in the area. Nobody should take law into his hands. We are all supposed to be stakeholders in providing peace and security," he said.

But last night, there were phone calls to *The Guardian* reporting sporadic gunshots in the area.

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