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'My son was killed in the full glare of policemen'

MONDAY, 29 JULY 2013 20:20 BY ODITA SUNDAY NEWS - METRO



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•Schoolboys murdered in their prime in Badagry

THE family of Ifechukwude Gabriel Nwainokpor, a graduate of Geology and Mining at the Delta State University, Abraka clubbed to death with his friend at Badagry area of Lagos, has urged the Lagos State Police Command to ensure that there is no sacred cow in a bid to unearth the mystery behind the death of their son.

Ify as his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Nwainokpor, natives of Onicha-Ugbo, Aniocha North of Delta State fondly called him, was allegedly lynched by suspected members of vigilante group in Badagry in full glare of members of the Nigeria Police attached to Badagry Police Division.

Just like the Alu Port Harcourt incident, the duo of Ifechukwude and Kazeem were returning from a friend's house when they were accosted by the group of vigilante men who tagged them suspects and took them to the home of their leader, one Dele Asiribo.

Asiribo was said to have handcuffed them immediately having threatened them with a locally made shotgun. It was said that while he was trying to return the gun to his pouch, it triggered and blew him up. He died instantly.

Out of anger, the youths allegedly descended on the two friends and sent them to their early grave.

According to his father, Samuel, who spoke to The Guardian amidst tears: "Ifechukwude is my first son. He was born on 5th September 1988. He is a graduate of Geology and Mining from Delta State University, Abraka. We live in Badagry, he was born in Badagry. Since he was at home waiting for his National Youth Service Corp, we decided he should go through tutelage under a friend of mine who a is freight forwarder in Apapa. That he has been doing."

"On May 2, 2013, he saw me off to the airport to Accra, just last Monday, July 21, I was informed by my in-law in Delta State about the incident. I took the next available flight from Ghana," he said.

Narrating the story, he continued: "The story I was told was that a freight forwarder friend invited him and his friend to their house. As they were returning, some people accosted them and said their faces are strange and immediately tagged them suspects. My child and his friend started arguing, asking why they should be referred to as suspects. They took him to the house of one man whom they called the head of the vigilante group in that area."

"He came out from his house with a locally made hand-gun and a hand-cuff. It was the gun he used to intimidate them and handcuffed them. In an attempt to return his locally made gun to his pouch, it triggered and blew him up; he died instantly. Immediately he died, the youths suspected to be members of the vigilante group mobbed my son and his friend in the glaring view of policemen and they died."

"The video of the atrocity is on You Tube. My son was wailing and begging that they are innocent. Police took their bodies and called them armed robbers. The Divisional Police Officer, (DPO), Mr. Dankoli Mohammed told us that he was not around when the incident happened. He informed us that his lieutenants told him that they have shot two armed robbers in the area. He said the father of my

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son's friend came to him (DPO) and urged the police to give him his son's body, and they quickly released it to him for burial without autopsy after such heinous crime had been committed."



"The DPO even insisted that it was a case of armed robbery until the video was played for him. After watching the video, he knew the bubble had busted and told us that the matter was now beyond him. He immediately took us to the office of the Area Commander. The Area Commander felt very bad after watching the video. He urged him to go to the scene and invite all the suspects involved."

"My second son was in coma for two days after he saw his brothers' dead body. It took the intervention of Doctors to revive him. My request from the Inspector General of Police and the Commissioner of Police is to ensure that justice is done on this matter. I cannot get my son back, the only thing I want now is justice and it must not elude us. The matter is already on the Internet and the police should do the right thing and deliver justice to us. I have only two sons and I cannot be alive to see this happen to me and my family."

The Lagos State Police Command, however, has swung into action over the matter. The Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Umaru Manka has ordered the State Criminal Investigation Department to unearth the mystery behind the killings.

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