

Unknown Gunmen Kill Woman, Daughter

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Homicide detectives have swung into action to unravel the mystery behind the murder of a woman and her daughter by unknown gunmen in their bedroom.

However, the detectives attached to the homicide section of the State Criminal Investigations Department (SCID), Elewe-Eran, Abeokuta, Ogun State Command, are working on the theory of what the woman and her daughter to the gunmen.

So far, they believe that the woman, Mrs. Vivian Chinasa Oyekanmi and her daughter, Teniola, were murdered in cold blood on Thursday, February 8, 2007, over sale of fake US\$100. Although the involvement of a female suspect, Patricia Otoide, in connection with the murder was not ruled out, as she had been arrested and detained at the SCID, Elewe-Eran. Sequel to the gory incident, the suspect and the deceased were alleged to have quarreled over a yet-to-be ascertained issue, which made the slain woman to have threaten to deal with Patricia. On the strength of the allegation, it was said the homicide operatives beamed their searchlight on the vexed issue and placed the woman under arrest for questioning.

Daily Independent reliably gathered that on the fateful day about 9.20 p.m. six armed men alighted from a sport car and entered a duplex made up of a three-bedroom flat and a boys' quarters located at Ojodu-Alagbole Road, Alagbole in Ifo Local Government Area of Ogun State.

The landlord, John Momoh, a medical doctor resident in the United Kingdom, left the house in care of his two

younger brothers, Solomon and Victor. Thus, the proceeds accruing from the yearly rent the two siblings used to sustain themselves. The siblings were allegedly jobless and their activities within the neighbourhood were said to be questionable coupled with the kind of friends they move around with. In a bid to assist the boys, sources told *Daily Independent* that the elder brother decided to put the property in care of the two younger brothers for their upkeep and knowing fully the type of persons his younger brothers were. But Dr. Momoh solely placed the house under the care of Solomon, who is the elderly one. And when the rents are collected, Solomon would give Victor whatever he deserved, and that had been the practice.

"When Momoh wanted to leave the country some years ago to the United Kingdom for further studies, he invited his two younger brothers, Solomon and Victor to stay at the boy's quarter behind the main building. He deliberately asked them to move in so as to collect the house rent for their upkeep. So, that was how the two siblings moved in while Solomon was saddled with the responsibility of collecting and sharing the rent between them," said a source that didn't want his name in print.

Solomon Momoh, who is next in line to owner of the property and caretaker in charge, it was learnt, was outside in front of the house taking beer in a bar when he saw gunmen entering their compound.

Initially, Solomon, who is allegedly a 'yahoo boy', thought the armed men were policemen after him and decided to avoid arrest.

Sources said he sent a friend of his taking beer with him at the bar to find out what was going on within the compound.

When his friend did not return on time, *Daily Independent* further learnt that Solomon sent another person, George White, owner of the bar, to find out what was happening. And as George White entered the compound and sighted the gunmen surrounding the person earlier sent, he attempted to escape, but was beckoned to come, which he obliged. Subsequently, he was asked to follow them around the building.

The gunmen suspected to be on a vengeance mission, by-passed the Oyekanmis apartment and went straight to the boys' quarter.

On arrival, sources told *Daily Independent*, the armed men asked for Solomon, but when they could not see him they went to the next room in the boy's quarter occupied by Victor, Solomon's younger brother. They pounced on him and marched him along with the two others to Oyekanmi's apartment.

Although the breadwinner, Mr. Remi Oyekanmi, a pharmacist, was away to the United Kingdom for further studies when the armed men called at his residence, but they met Vivian and her two daughters, Teniola, the first child, and Seyitan, who had already gone to bed.

The gunmen broke into the apartment and held them hostage, but Teniola, the six-year-old, pleaded with them to pardon her mother.

"She identified one of the armed men and said, 'Uncle, Uncle, please spare our lives'. She was on her knees

pleading with the armed men, but they did not heed her pleas," said our source.

But in a jiffy, the unknown gunmen pumped hot leads into her and her mother. She was shot in the chest and neck, while her mother, a graduate of French/German Languages from Imo State University, Okigwe, was also shot on her forehead, chest and leg until they all died instantly in their living room.

Also inside Oyekanmi's living room upstairs, the gunmen shot Mr. George White on his forehead, chest and leg and he died.

Besides, the gunmen did not spare Victor, as he sustained gunshot wound in his neck, which made him to pretend he was dead.

"The irony of it was that the gunmen shot Victor, but it did not penetrate his body. He cheated death by the whiskers, as fell and pretended he was dead before the armed men left," said our source.

Shortly after the gunmen left, it was alleged that Victor locked the door of the door and began trying to revive the 36-year-old woman and her daughter, Teniola, but without success.

"He ran down the staircase to meet Solomon. He and Solomon ran to their family lawyer, one Mr. Jerry, who invited the police at Ajuwon Division. Thereafter, they made arrangement and got across to an elder brother, Gboyega," said the younger brother to the slain woman.

Thereafter, the two corpses Vivian and her daughter were put in Gboyega's 4-Runner Jeep and deposited at Sango General Hospital mortuary for postmortem examination.

•To be concluded tomorrow