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# Cut Down In His Prime

Crime is assuming a new dimension in some parts of Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital. Some miscreants in the city have since turned themselves into lords, making life unsafe and boring to unsuspecting members of the public. The Police are not finding it easy curbing the crime rate.

Notable among the deadly spots in Yenagoa are Ovom, Old Yenagoa, Swali, Amarata, Okaka, Otiotio road, Yenezuegene, among others.

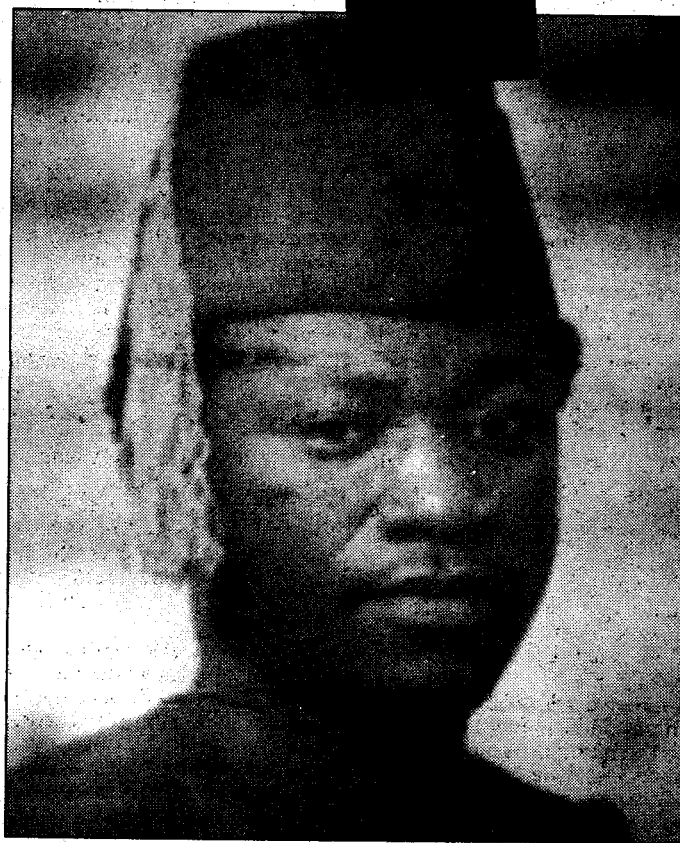
Inhabitants living in these areas are always mindful of the security lapses in these axes, even as some police personnel patrol the state capital regularly. The criminals dwelling in these slums have a field day and some of them are dreaded by the police. They rob and rape women that are old enough to be their mothers. They are not even scared of the presence of soldiers patrolling in the state capital and its environs.

On June 4, in Obelle Street, Ovom, one ex-member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Tunde Akinwumi, 27, fell into their trap. The deceased, a native of Sagamu, Ogun

State, was believed to be returning home around 8p.m., when he was accosted by three hefty men at a dark spot, leading to his abode.

A witness told *Daily Independent* that the robbers attempted to dispossess Akinwumi of his two mobile phones and ear piece, but he battled with them until he was stabbed on the chest. The miscreants abandoned Akinwumi, leaving his mobile phones behind. The graduate of Home Science and Management, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta was left in a pool of his blood. He managed to trek a few metres to his apartment and fell on his bed, having lost much blood.

In a bid to save his life, some friends and sympathisers decided to rush Akinwumi to the hospital. But, before reaching the Glory Land Hospital situated in Yenagoa, the young man gave up the ghost. Doctors shocked his friends and sympathisers when they confirmed that Akinwumi had passed on.



•Late Akinwumi

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Aggrieved corps members in the state had wanted to embark on peaceful demonstration over his death, but they were advised to suspend the idea for security reasons.

This tragic situation threw his friends off guard. They tasked themselves and dashed to the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa, where they deposited the corpse of Akinwumi.

Friends of the deceased quickly informed his relations at Sagamu on the unfortunate incident. They are still imagining the untimely demise of the promising lad who finished his compulsory NYSC programme in the state, February this year.

Late Akinwumi won the NYSC state award, where he emerged third best corps member in his batch. Due to his brilliant

outing in the service year, Akinwumi had several promises of job employment in the state. This necessitated his staying back in Yenagoa after the service year.

One of his friends, fondly called Austin, he described Akinwumi as unassuming and humble. Austin said the deceased was never known to be troublesome.

Another ex-corps member described him as "a quiet individual." He said the late

young man, at the last NYSC Orientation exercise at Kaiama, assisted one of the new generation banks in the state in marketing their products.

When contacted for comments, Public Relations Officer of the State NYSC, Chukwuemeka Rems-Mgbemena, who was shocked at the incident regretted that death of Akinwumi brought to two corps members killed in the same manner in the state.

In his reaction, Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ibokette Iniobong, said he received a signal on the death of Akinwumi.

No arrests have been made by the police death yet as the culprits are now at large.

Whether the family of the slain Akinwumi will ever get justice, only time will tell.