

Slain Victim's Family Doubts Police Investigation

By Alex Oni,
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Family members of slain Lagos-based businessman, the late Ikechukwu Onyemaechi Onyeleke, have expressed doubt about the neutrality of the police in investigating the murder of their son.

Spokesman of the family, Innocent Onyeleke, was particularly irked that a murder case incidented at State CID, Panty, was transferred to Force CID, Alagbon, within few days of the report, even before detectives from Panty could start investigation of the matter.

The deceased was working in his site at Idi-Apa, Okota, Oshodi-Apapa Expressway, on September 4, about 11 a.m. when a group of thugs and some suspected members of Oodua People's Congress (OPC) stormed the place and allegedly beat him to death.

Eyewitness account said he was beaten with charm. He was killed few days to his wedding with his heartthrob, Basilia Chigozie Udungwo.

Innocent Onyeleke said preparation for the wedding was in top gear and that invitation cards had already been sent out.

Shortly after the killing, the police at State CID, Panty, moved in and arrested an Isolo Prince, Alade Aregbe, and four others over complicity in the murder.

The police also sent out invitation

to 14 other suspects. They are Monsuru a.k.a. Alagba, Akibu alias Iku (Mr. Death), Akeem alias Aye (Mr. World), and five OPC members. They are Lukman, Demola, Sikiru, Elemure and one Oshibote.

However, investigation into the matter was about to begin when crack detectives from homicide section of Force CID, Alagbon, stormed Panty and took over the case. The five suspects in the cell were

also transferred to Alagbon.

Innocent Onyeleke said the action of the police shows that those who killed his brother are highly connected with the police, and the transfer of the case may be a grand design to scuttle the case at Alagbon.

"Now, those we are accusing of killing our brother are the complainants at Alagbon. Probably we are now the suspects. We are now being accused of killing our own brother," he said.

But a senior police officer at homicide section of Alagbon denied that police have any interest in the matter.

"Just as you're a professional journalist, we are detectives and professionals in our profession. The order came from the office of the Inspector-General of Police that we should take over the case for thorough investigation.

"We shall look into the matter thoroughly, obtain statements from suspects, visit the scene of crime, carry out autopsy, etc. and at the end of it all we will charge those indicted to court, while those absolved would be asked to go home. For now, the five suspects we collected from Panty remain in detention here," the officer said.



•The late Onyeleke