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## Jack: Controversy over killing of suspected robbery kingpin

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• Jack • Late Fapoluyi

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**It** is said that dead men tell no tales. But for Joseph Jack, a suspected armed robber that had allegedly terrorised parts of Lagos, though he is long dead, more controversy have continued to trail the death of the suspected armed robber who had reportedly laid siege to Lagos residents while he lived. His family have accused the police of killing him extra-judicially. Before his death recently, Jack, had variously claimed to be 28 or 32 years, depending on circumstances. At some time,

also, he had given his name to the law enforcement officers as Joseph Osoata.

He had also been arrested severally and charged to court on allegation of being an armed robber.

Incidentally, he died in a bloody –Ijegun, Lagos operation when he led operatives of the State's Special Anti Robbery Squad led by Abba Kyari, a Superintendent of Police, SP to arrest some members of his gang. It was gathered that a gun duel ensued when the gang opened fire on the police and Jack almost escaped. He died in the process along with the leader of the gang.

SARS operatives, it was learnt, did not take chances given that similar incident had occurred in June 2013, where they lost a colleague, Sunday Fapoluyi to the robbers. In 2013, a robbery suspect in SARS net after confession had led the operatives to Ifo, in Ogun State to arrest the leader of his gang and other members.

The gang leader was said to have immediately opened fire as the Police approached the door of the room where he was, pumping bullets through the door as the police team approached. The bullets hit Corporal Fapoluyi killing him instantly. The aggrieved team members responded swiftly and killed the deadly robber. At the end, Two AK 47 rifles were recovered at that scene.

Incidentally, the killing of Corporal Fapoluyi, was the only casualty recorded by SARS in the last three years and one month that SP Kyari had been in charge. The feats by Kyari and his team have, twice, earned him commendations from the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Mohammed Dahiru Abubakar. Lagos State governor, Babatunde Fashola, has in similar stead, twice rewarded him for gallantry in combating crime in the State. The officer has also received several awards for hard work in various quarters.

Incidentally, since the death of Jack, there have been insinuations by members of his family and a human rights activist against the police of extra judicial killings.

But the Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Police

Command, Ngozi Braide, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, DSP, has reacted to the insinuation, describing it as unfounded.

Braide said that the late Jack had been arrested four times in the past for armed robbery and charged to court only to be released on bail.

She said the first time he was arrested by the police, he was charged to court.

Braide revealed that the Military later arrested him for armed robbery and impersonation and transferred the case to the Lagos State Police command for proper investigation and prosecution when he allegedly robbed some people in Ogba area of the State.

He was also according to the Police, arrested for snatching a motorcycle in the same Ogba axis.

Braide disclosed that in 2011, Jack was charged to court for impersonating the military and extorting motorists using military camouflage jacket, an army vest and camouflage cap. He later came out to rob some people in that Ogba area.

She added that in January 12, 2012, he was transferred to the Police by the Military for similar offence and was charged in February 2012.

The last of his engagements was when he and other members of his gang attacked a tricycle operator and dispossessed him of his tricycle and money. He was said to have used it to rob other people and later sold the tricycle the following day.

It was further gathered that he was later arrested by the anti-robbery team attached to Ojodu Police Division who now transferred him to SARS.

During interrogation, he confessed being a member of Bank ATM robbery gang. He mentioned one Daniel as the leader of the gang.

The confession prompted SARS to use him as a guide to arrest Daniel at Ilasa Maja area of the State. There the gang opened fire on the police when Daniel was gunned down along with another gang member, simply described as AU.

The gang was said to be responsible for the robbery at Access Bank, Ayobo on the 16th November 2013, where an Assistant Superintendent of Police ASP, a Sergeant and a Corporal were killed.

One AK 47 rifle and 11 magazines were recovered by the police at the scene. When Daniel's house was traced at Iyana Ipaja area of the State, four AK47 rifles were further recovered.

It was gathered that all the five AK 47 recovered, ironically, belonged to the police. Two of the rifles were stolen from Ayobo Police Division, One from Pen Cinema Police Division. It was snatched when robbers killed a Police Corporal during Diamond Bank robbery, while two belonged to Igando Division. They were snatched after the hoodlums gunned down two policemen on patrol.

It was also said that when the same Jack led the police to arrest a gang member called Saviour a.k.a Confidence, the suspect (Saviour) opened fire and in an attempt to escape with Jack, both were fatally wounded.

One of the letters from the 81 Division of the Nigerian Army with Ref 9BDE/G1/300/10, dated 12 January, 2012 and signed by Brigadier General SN Muazu and received the same day as part of the transfer of the suspect to the commissioner of Police, Lagos State Police Command read in part:

“That the above named suspect Joseph Jack was arrested on 5 January, 2012 at Ogba general area of Lagos by a patrol team of Nigerian Army Military Police for staling, harassing and extorting civilians. The suspect was fully dressed in Nigerian Army Camouflage uniform with military police accessories at the time of arrest”.

It added that one of the victims Mr. Rufus Akinrinwale of No. 3/5 Furniture Avenue Ifako Ijaiye Ogba Lagos alleged that the suspect under threat with a Jack Knife demanded the sum of Two million Naira (N2,000,000:00) for the offence of carrying Nigerian Army Stickers and banners in his car, a Toyota Highlander Jeep with registration No. TC 900 AAA. The victim according to the letter bargained with the suspect to pay N150,000.00

The military disclosed that in the course of their preliminary investigation, it was discovered that the suspect was a civilian who specialized in impersonating as a soldier to commit crimes, including robbery.

The letter revealed that he had been arrested severally and handed over to the Nigeria Police for similar offences in the past, adding that assorted military items were recovered from him including one Jack knife and fake Nigerian Army identity cards.

He was charged in February for using Jack knife to extort N2million from one Rufus Akinwale of no 2/5 Furniture Avenue Ifako Ijaiye, in Ogba.

The third incidence was on June 17th 2012 at Abule Egba area, where he allegedly robbed N35, 000 and Gold wrist watch valued at N25,000 property of Mr. Kehinde Kareem of Agbado area.

Jack and his men were also said to have robbed one Obiora Offor of his tricycle while armed with Jack knife and Brownie Pistol. He was later arrested by Police men from Ojodu Division.

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