

# How my gang strangled taxi driver to death

## — Wright Edison

Ebele **BONIFACE**

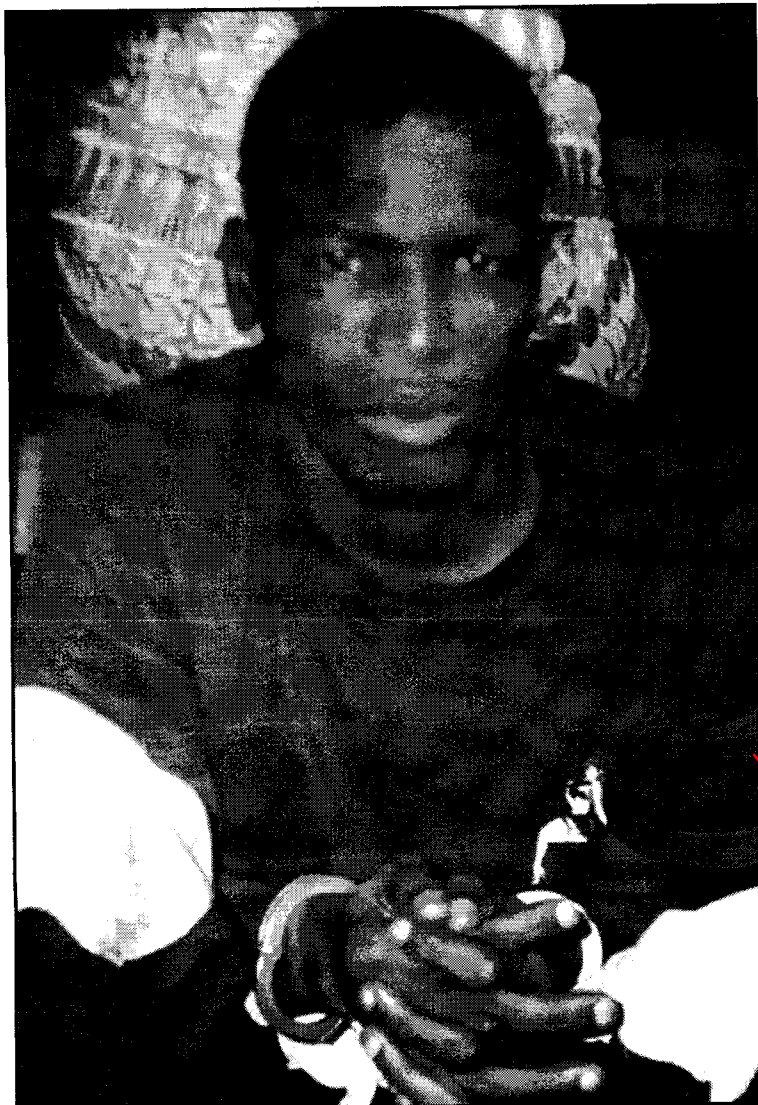
**U**SMAN Osmade Osayemi woke up on Saturday, September 30, 2006 and prayed to God to give him is daily bread through his commercial driving business. Until the recent ban on night operation of commercial motorcyclists in Lagos State, only hard working drivers could meet up with his target of daily delivery. This is because Lagosians often prefer *Okada* to buses or taxis to beat traffic jam in meeting up with their appointments.

Because of dull business in the day time, many taxi drivers now work late into the night. This was why 35-year old Osayemi ventured into carrying three men he never knew would cause his untimely death as passengers from Ikeja to 7Up area of Alausa near toll gate in Lagos.

According to one of the suspects currently being held by the police at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti; Wright Edison, 27, who claimed to be a footballer with defunct Abiola Babes, he admitted that he participated in the killing of the innocent taxi driver.

The late taxi driver had picked the trio: Ojo, Gift and Wright at the Police College gate on Oba Akinjobi Road, GRA, Ikeja at 9.50p.m on a chartered trip to Alausa plant of 7Up.

Wright, who spoke to *The Nation* at the SCID Panti office had more to reveal: "I am a footballer. I train at Ikeja Police College football pitch. I was a member of the defunct Abiola Babes Football



• Wright Edison

Club. Although my parents reside in Ibadan, I came from Benin to Lagos to eke a living. I knew

nobody when I arrived Lagos. Even now, I have no permanent home address as I sleep

anywhere I see. Most of the time, I pass the night in sheds and under counters at the computer village. I also sleep under the bridge at Ikeja.

"I met Gift and Ojo at Oshodi by Army Barracks railway line at Indian hemp joint and we have since became friends.

On Saturday, September 30, this year, the three of us flagged down a taxi cab near the police college gate; and Gift negotiated with the driver.

The driver, was driving a Volkswagen Gulf Salon car with the registration number ZB 498 KAA at about 9.50pm. We took Oregon road to arrive at 7UP. There, Gift held the driver by the neck and ordered him to stand up and surrender the steering to Ojo.

"He pushed the driver to the back seat and Ojo took over the steering. I held the driver's two hands and Gift turned his neck

and broke it; and the man died.

When he died, we were looking for where to dump the corpse. At Jibowu, Gift dropped the dead body and we zoomed off. We wanted to go and attempt an operation with the taxi without knowing that the police saw us when we dropped the corpse. They began to trail us with a bus along Ikorodu Road. Immediately they blocked our car, Ojo and Gift swiftly bolted away and so I was arrested and detained at Pedro Police Station, Somolu before I was transferred here (SCID) at Panti cell.

"My ambition is to become a football star like Henry Tieri who plays for Arsenal and France, I schooled at Ikolaba Grammar School, Ibadan. Unfortunately for me, this is my first time of joining an armed robbery gang just to get money for feeding and secure an accommodation".