

'My husband left home with a promise to return... but he was killed at 4pm, the time he promised to return'

IF Kazeem Adeusi had known that his journey to Ondo in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State from the hilly town of Idanre would be his last, he would not have embarked on the journey.

As everybody was preparing for the celebration of the New Year and the *Eid-el-Kabir*, Adeusi and members of his family were also upbeat about the round of festivities.

A Muslim, Adeusi promised his wife and three children a big treat.

Preparatory to both festivities, he took his family out and bought clothes and other items for his children.

But the dream of having a happy time with them was thwarted by a blood-thirsty mobile policeman who killed Adeusi on December 28, three days after Christmas and three days from the *Eid-el-Kabir*, at Owena junction on the Ondo-Akure Road.

Adeusi was said to have left home around 10am full of life on that fateful Thursday, with a promise to return early.

He told his wife and children that he was going to visit a friend at Ondo. The friend had just returned to the country from the United States for the New Year celebration.

After the normal ceremonies and throwing of banter that usually accompany the reception for a friend visiting from a foreign country, Adeusi decided to return to Idanre to join his family.

His friend was said to have offered to take him to Idanre, about 15 minutes' drive from Ondo. Adeusi accepted the offer, not knowing that the ride would be his last.

On their way, they got to a road-block mounted by policemen at Owena junction. They were ordered to stop. The BMW car in which they were travelling, carried a foreign number plate.

It was learnt that after some conversation with Adeusi and his friend, the policemen demanded for "settlement". They were said to have been offered a N200 note, which they rejected.

Irrked by the rejection of the money, the driver started the vehicle and moved. But before the car could move for 50 metres, a policeman pulled the trigger of his rifle.

The bullet penetrated through the back windscreen to hit Adeusi, who was sitting beside the driver, in the head. He died instantly.

Narrating her husband's ordeal to *The Nation* yesterday, his wife, Solape said: "My husband left home with a promise to return by 4.00p.m. He said



•The late Adeusi's wife, Solape and her children

From Babatope Okeowo, Akure he was going to visit a friend at Ondo but he was killed at 4.00p.m, the time he promised to return.

"When I did not see him up till evening, I thought he had decided to stay with his friend. But by 11.a.m the following day, people of the town had already known and it was around that time that they started searching for me.

"They now took me to my husband's family house and told me that Kazeem was fighting with somebody, but I said it can't be true because I know my husband cannot fight anybody, until I got here and they

broke the news to me."

The family of Adeusi has asked the state government and the police authorities to ensure that justice prevails.

Through their counsel, Mr. Gbenga Oke-Samuel, the family has petitioned the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Sunday Ehindero, over the murder.

The petition, a copy of which was made available to *The Nation*, stated: "Sir, the gruesome murder of citizen Kazeem Adeusi by the trigger-happy policeman under the above situation is a violent violation of his right to life, which is clearly protected under the Constitution, African Charter

on Human and People's Rights and other International Conventions on Human Rights which Nigeria as a state is a signatory to.

"While it is expected that the trigger-happy policeman will be made to face criminal trial, we want to demand for the following: "That the Nigerian State (Federal Government) must take responsibility for this cold-blooded murder of citizen Kazeem Adeusi.

"That the said policeman should be tried for murder without any delay.

"That the Nigerian State must pay adequate compensation to the deceased's fam-

"The gruesome murder of citizen Kazeem Adeusi by the trigger-happy policeman under the above situation is a violent violation of his right to life"

ily. "Government should take responsibility for the killing, since it controls the police and it unleashed on the society badly-trained police, so the state should be responsible. There must be adequate compensation for the upkeep of the family. We want government to act fast on this before the police is dragged to court."

The police have arrested the killer-policeman. He will be charged to court soon. Police spokesman Adeniran Aremu said the suspect was being detained at the Special Anti-Robbery Squad station at Alagbaka, Akure.

Explain source of N2b loan for farms, Atiku camp urges Obasanjo

VICE President Atiku Abubakar has described the claim that President Olusegun Obasanjo borrowed N2billion to reactivate his now flourishing Obasanjo Farms as a laughable and childish lie that is akin to the futile use of the palm to cover the sun; a concoction which Nigerians would not fall for.

The Atiku Abubakar Campaign Organisation, in a statement yesterday, said the fact that the

By Our Reporter

loan was itself supplicated only about six months ago means that it cannot explain the geometrical expansion of the Ota Farm alone much less the five other multi-billion Naira farms established by the President in six states.

Besides, the organisation said, the monumental transformation of Obasanjo farms predated the N2billion Obasanjo collected from the banks.

Presidential spokesperson, Uba

Sani had said at the weekend that Obasanjo took a N2billion loan from four banks to reactivate Obasanjo Farms. The organisation has last week, challenged Obasanjo to tell Nigerians how he transformed from a man of N20,000 savings in 1999 to the new owner of a flourishing group of farms spread across the country.

"Besides, General Obasanjo should tell Nigerians how he raised the collateral to borrow the N2billion he admits to having

borrowed to reactivate the moribund Obasanjo Farms.

"The explanation of Uba Sani has only further exposed the duplicity of General Obasanjo.

"General Obasanjo should tell Nigerians how a farm which was moribund in 1999 and had to be bailed out of impending liquidation become so rich to generate the collateral for a N2billion loan.

"Everyone conversant with the banking system knows that you need collateral of about N6billion to

raise a N2billion loan. President Obasanjo should tell Nigerians how he transformed from a man who his closest minister said had less than N20, 000 in his account in 1999 to someone who now has N6billion collateral to take a N2billion loan.

"We are, however, hopeful that President Obasanjo will be honest enough to tell Nigerians what date he took the loan, on what conditions and with what collateral."