

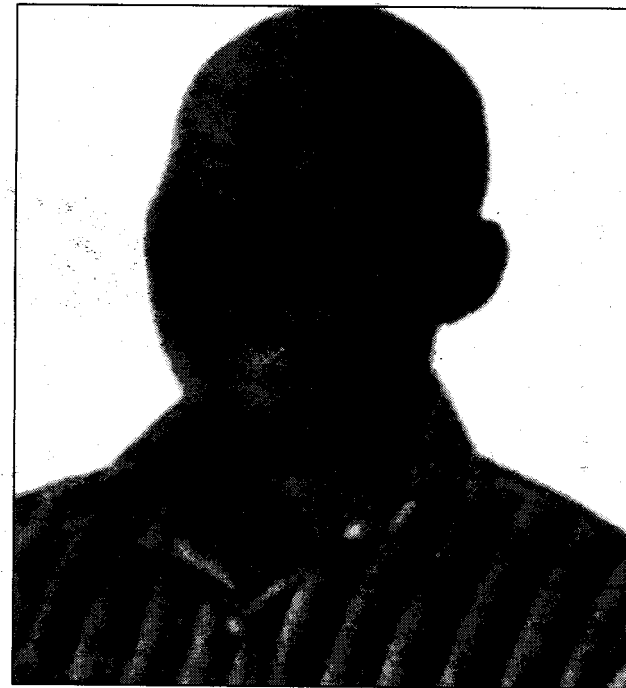
News

US-bound youth killed by security guard

He would have travelled to the U.S. tomorrow, but his destiny was cut short when he was matcheted to death by the street security guard. Omolara Akintoye writes about the untimely death of Olufemi Faturoti.



• The late Faturoti's mother, Dorcas (right) and a relation



• The late Faturoti

He left the house that night at 10 pm to see his fiancée who lives opposite their house but never knew he was going to die that night. Though I earlier on had the premonition but it never knew that my son would die." These were the words of Mrs Dorcas Olu faturoti, the mother of Michael Oluwafemi Faturoti, who met his untimely death last weekend.

Tragedy struck at Odunlami Street, Shomolu, when a 25 year old boy, Mr Michael Oluwafemi Faturoti was matcheted to death by one of the street security guards.

The security guard Mallam Amodu was said to be a Nigeriene who attacked the deceased with two matchets.

The late Faturoti who lived with his parents at 5 Odunlami Street, it was gathered went to see his fiancée who lives opposite their house. On getting there, his fiancée, Miss Abdolahi Miriam narrated the ordeal 'I'd earlier on called home to know his whereabouts because I've not seen him that day

"He answered my call and asked me to cook rice and stew for him. I prepared the food and I waited for him, eventually, he came back in the company of his friends.

We are always together and everybody use to see us together, even the security guard that killed him, Femi always give him money. Femi was a loving, caring, and a gentle boy who could not hurt a fly and everybody on that street loves him. While we were together on the bed that night when he suddenly stood up and went outside with his friends. I was still waiting for him and when he did not come inside, I decided to go outside to call him. That was when I saw him fallen down, I discovered that the security guard was holding matchet and was cutting Femi's body I shouted and went to call his mother who followed me immediately. But by the time we got there, it was too late in an interview with Femi's Mother, Mrs Dorcas Olufaturoti, a staff with University of Lagos who was just receiving from an operation she said (though short words), Femi is my confidant until his day, ever on that day he came in and told me he was going to see his fiancée, I was still resting when his fiancé came to call me to come and see what has happened. By the time I got out, I saw my son lying down in his own pool of blood. If not for what happened, Femi is travelling to the U.S. the Friday. He would have travelled last year but I compelled him to stay till this year so that he can take care of me which he gladly did," she wept.

The deceased it was gathered was matcheted in front of the First African Church Mission Incorporated, St. John's Parish on 8, Odunlami Street, Shomolu, there was blood stains in front of the church when *The Nation* got there.

Narrating an eye witness account, Mrs Abosede Akinyemi, who lives on the street said: "Femi is a generous and well-cultured, he never fought with anybody until his

'The guard said: "Do you know I can kill you" Femi said. "But I'm your friend now, how can you kill me," then before we know what was happening, he has brought out a machete and started attacking him'

death, that night, there was no light, and few minutes later, NEPA brought light and everybody went inside, that was when Femi came outside and the guard requested for money from him, but he told him he had to go inside because he was not having any money on him. The guard said: "Do you know I can kill you" Femi said. "But I'm your friend now, how can you kill me," then before we know what was happening, he has brought out a machete and started attacking him.

Then I shouted, "Egbamio," help, but nobody came to my rescue because the light just came even his friends who tried to stop the Mallam, he threatened to kill them. Then the guard went to bring out the second machete which he used to cut Femi's body.

After the incident, it was gathered, Femi's was taken to a private hospital, Alqudus Hospital, situated along Market Street, where he was rejected, "we decided to take him to Igbobi hospital where he was again rejected. We were later advised to take him to LUTH, but he died on the way (weeps). Even when we got to LUTH, the authority rejected his body on the ground that it was corona case. The body was eventually accepted at General Hospital, Lagos and he was buried at Ijebu Igbogbo, our home town," said Mrs Faturoti Docass.

The incident, according to the eye witness, Mrs Bosede Akinyemi, was the third earlier on, the guard had matcheted two other people one was early this year and the other one was last year, named Mr Demola Adewunmi and Mr Agoro but they survived it, unfortunately Femi never survived it.

"The incident was the handiwork of some chief tenants who live on the street."

According to her, they are the one who employed the two security guards and they gave instruction to them as to who to deal with. *The Nation* newspapers at Nos 1 and 7

Mr Ayodele and No.1 Mr Akala where the Chief tenants lives but there was nobody there, even other tenants had fled for their live. Mr Ayodele and Mr Akala were the ones who collected money for their lives from tenants as well as those who park cars on the street, but nobody ever ask questions from them.

Until his death, Olufemi Faturoti was not only a chorister in the First African Church, (where he was slain) he also contributed generously towards the building project of the church.

His mother, Mrs Faturoti is "Lay Reader in the church and it was gathered that she had been attending the church since 1970s. Femi was the last born of a family of five.

The angry youths whose reality of Femi's death dawned on them vandalised the two houses where the chief tenant lived as well as the church and First African Church where he was killed.

"Initially we thought it was the Church that employed the security guards and the fact that there was blood at the entrance of the church," said an angry youth. It was gathered that the boy was used for sacrifice, but this was debunked by the

In an interview with the Cannon of the church, Johnson Adebayo Tade he said, "It was a tragedy, I was at a Ministers' conference when somebody phoned me about the incident. All I want to say is that the boy and his mother are our members and we never used him for sacrifice.

The church never employed the security guards, it was the chief tenants of the street who employed them," he said "Our Archbishop of the West Africa Diocese and Bishop of Lagos Diocese, Most Reverend A. O. Obarisiagbon was there and we've sent a letter to the Lagos State Governor, Bola Ahmed Tinubu for assistance, we've also sent a letter to the Alade police station, but the police officers did not do anything about it, so we decided to report the matter at Kirikiri so that the police offices can come and investigate the matter.

The Nation was at the Alade police station, but was told that the information officer was not on seat.

Odunlami Street which used to be alive is now a shadow of itself as most of the tenants had fled the area for fear of arrest.

Femi was buried in their hometown, Ijebu-Igbogbo. Mrs Faturoti said she left the matter to God.

The incident according to report, led to the destruction of Kiosk owned by Hausa in Shomolu area, a visit to some of the kiosks reveals that all the Hausa had fled for safety.

The Nation was at the place of the Oba of Shomolu as well as that of Baale of Bajulaiye but met their absence.

Speaking on the move which the chairman of Shomolu Local Government, Abiodun Kuye had taken, Mrs Faturoti said: "He was at my place and he even paid a sum of N80,000 for his son's post-mortem."