

KAI officer killed on duty

A saying goes that because all lizards lie on their bellies, no one can easily determine which of them has stomach ache. This was exactly the situation recently at Ketu area of Lagos when a passenger on a commercial motorcycle killed an official of Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI) on duty with only a push, without knowing whether the man was healthy enough for a duel. It was gathered that the suspect, Eric Abbe was on a motorcycle with another passenger and the rider when the handle of the motorcycle hit the hand of the KAI official, Gbenga Oloyede who was on duty around Tipper Garage area of Ketu. *The Nation* learnt that when the handle of the motorcycle hit the deceased, he immediately retaliated by hitting the suspect with a big stick on his back forcing the latter to jump down from the motorbike to confront him alongside the other passenger, Lateef Wahab. It was further gathered that the rider who was the cause of the problem did not wait to make peace as he sped off without collecting his fare. *The Nation* also learnt that when Eric came down from the bike, he went straight to the KAI man and asked why he should hit him with the stick since he was not responsible for what happened. But instead of resolving the issue peacefully, the KAI officer created a scene by holding the suspect on his shirt while the suspect tried to free himself. As the struggle continued between them with some people trying to make peace without success, Eric pushed Gbenga and he fell down, hitting his skull on the tarred floor. The deceased who went into a coma after the fall was rushed to a nearby hospital where he later died while receiving treatment. Subsequently, Eric was arrested by

Policemen from Ketu Police Station and was later transferred to the Homicide section of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panty, Yaba where he is presently being detained. When *The Nation* met with the suspect recently at Panty, he denied being responsible for the death of Gbenga. According to him, there was no fight between the two of them; it was just a push as he tried to release himself from the grip of the deceased who was holding his shirt.

The 26 year old suspect who spoke with *The Nation* while trying to hold back tears said: "I did not kill that man, I did not even fight him. I was only trying to remove his hand from my shirt when he fell down and he did not die there. The Police should carry out an autopsy on him to find out the exact cause of his death, because something tells me that the man might have been suffering from one ailment before I had that small contact with him because that contact was not enough to kill him. I know I didn't kill him".

The suspect who hails from Erimope in Ekiti State but resides at 38, Igbonla Street, Ketu said he was prepared to go to any extent to prove his innocence. However, the Police authority at the SCID said that though an autopsy has not been carried out, that the suspect is not in a position to claim that he was not responsible for the crime, noting that the push would have as well hastened the cause of death even if the man was already suffering from other ailments before the fight. Meanwhile, investigation is still being carried out as arrangements have been made to conduct the autopsy, which will assist the Police in determining the true cause of death.