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## Murder on Ekiti farm

By [Toyin Anisulowo](#) | Published 15/06/2009 | [News Extra](#) | Unrated

Tragedy of a monu-mental proportion hit the family of the Oluwabusuyis in Igede-**Ekiti**, in Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area of Ekit State, penultimate Saturday when the family's breadwinner was hacked down in cold blood.

The deceased, Mr. Tayo Oluwabusuyi, a former mail dispatcher with the Union Bank of Nigeria, Igede-**Ekiti** branch, was found cold dead, in the pool of his own blood at his **farm** in the late hours of the day in Igede-**Ekiti**.

The murder is creating silent tension in the prominent but largely agrarian community.

Tayo, 57, had bade goodbye to his darling wife, Omolola, after the usual exchange of emotional pleasantries and headed for his **kolanut** plantation in the early hours of that day, without any presentment that death was hurking in the **farm** to feast on him.

According to the widow of the deceased, who gave an account of what happened that day, Tayo had departed from their residence in the early hours of that day with a promise to be home before sun set.

However, when her husband of 20 years failed to return by evening that day as promised, she became apprehensive.

"I started having strange feelings that something terrible might have happened to my husband in the **farm** because he always kept his word. We immediately organized a six-man search party headed by me, to look for him in the **farm**

"When we got to the **farm**, I shouted his name at the top of my voice but only my voice re-echoed back to me. It was deafening silence; it was only the chirrps of the birds in the bush that we heard. My husband was not responding; my fear became heightened

"We went round the **kolanut** plantaintion and the adjacent farms to no avail. But on a second search, we stumbled on his lifeless, brutally mutilated body lying in the pool of his own blood, his eyes wide open. His eyes seemed to be asking his assailants, 'Why!'

"I immediately fell on him. I kissed him. I tried to feel his pulse. I lifted his arm, there was no response. The bleeding was heavy; the machete cut was deep. He obviously received heavy blows from his assailants' machete.

Who could have done it? Whom did he offend? The distraught widow suspected two distant relations (name withheld) whom are said to be ex-convicts both, and who allegedly are notorious in stealing people's **farm** produce.

According to her, her husband had had a violent brawl with them because he (her husband) discovered that they were allegedly trespassing on his **farm** and stealing his **farm** produce.

She said her late husband had repeatedly warned them to desist, or else he would report them to the police. But instead, said the widow, the duo threatened to kill him if he dared.

Strangely enough, when the search party returned from the **farm** that day, they discovered that the duo had absconded from the town, packing their belongings with them. This, she said, reinforced the suspicion about their possible culpability.

Hence, the matter was reported to one Chief Oloro, who is said to be the traditional chief in charge of their area. They were consequently fished out and interrogated by the elders of the community.

They were said to have initially denied any complicity in the murder. But they had to allegedly confess to the murder, especially as one of them could not explain how he got the blood stain on his legs.

The traditional ruler of Igede-**Ekiti**, Oba James Adelusi Aladesuru, was promptly informed about the development. The police were consequently called in to arrest the suspected assailants. They are at present being detained at the State Police Command Headquarters.

Mr. Dele Abelese, also a farmer in the same community, said the suspects were not new in the act of terror. He claimed that he too (Abelese) only narrowly being killed by them about eight years ago when he accosted them having allegedly caught them stealing **kolanut** in his **farm**.

He recalled: "I was tied to a stake and thoroughly beaten. I was left for dead because I actually feigned death. "It was my little daughter who ran to call for help before I was saved from death. I still bear the sign of their attack on me."

The Oluwabusuyi family is, however, alleging that some prominent citizens of the community are pressurizing the police to release the suspects.

But the State Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fabia Ojiri, denied the allegation, assuring that the suspects would never be released under any circumstance.

"It is a murder case and so it is not a bailable offence. Investigation is on-going. Once we are through with investigation, they would be charged to court", the police chief assured.

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He revealed that at least, five people had been arrested in connection with the murder. The arrested persons, whose names he mentioned, include the two persons initially suspected, another brother of theirs, their mother and the wife of one of the suspects.



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