

Butchered to death

Kolawole Badejo left his three kids at home penultimate week when he set out on a debt recovery mission. He never came back alive, as he was stabbed to death by a notorious butcher. **Taiwo Abiodun and Tosin Makinde report**

AGENTS of death sometimes strike when the victims least expect, and leave tears and sorrow on the trail. Such was the fate of Mr. Moses Kolawole Badejo, who left home a healthy man on the 20th of last month, but never returned alive.

The deceased was said to be working on some electrical appliances in his residence at 19, New Road, Atila, Agbado, Ogun State, when he suddenly got up and decided to attempt collecting the balance of the money paid to a furniture maker early this year.

The said money was for the purpose of making bedding for his child. Few hours after he left home, he was brutally butchered by a friend of the furniture maker, Tobi Ogunleye, known by many as a professional butcher.

The 26-year old father of three was said to have gone to the furniture maker, Tunde Adebayo, to demand the refund of N7, 000 he paid him to make a bed for his new baby, which the latter had not delivered since March. Tunde was said to have refunded N2, 000 and has since refused to pay up despite the deceased's repeated pleas.

At the furniture maker's workshop an argument ensued between the two men. Badejo decided to report the matter at the police station but was pacified by sympathisers. Unfortunately, Adebayo's wife had called Ogunleye to come and intervene. When Ogunleye, who is feared in the neighborhood, came instead of resolving the matter amicably he reportedly decided to deal

with the deceased by stabbing him severally. Ogunleye was said to have stabbed Badejo severally from his stomach to the leg and to the heart, which led to his death.

Narrating how the episode happened, the wife of the deceased, Mrs. Idowu Badejo, said that her husband was working on electrical appliances at home when he decided to go and demand for his money from the furniture maker.

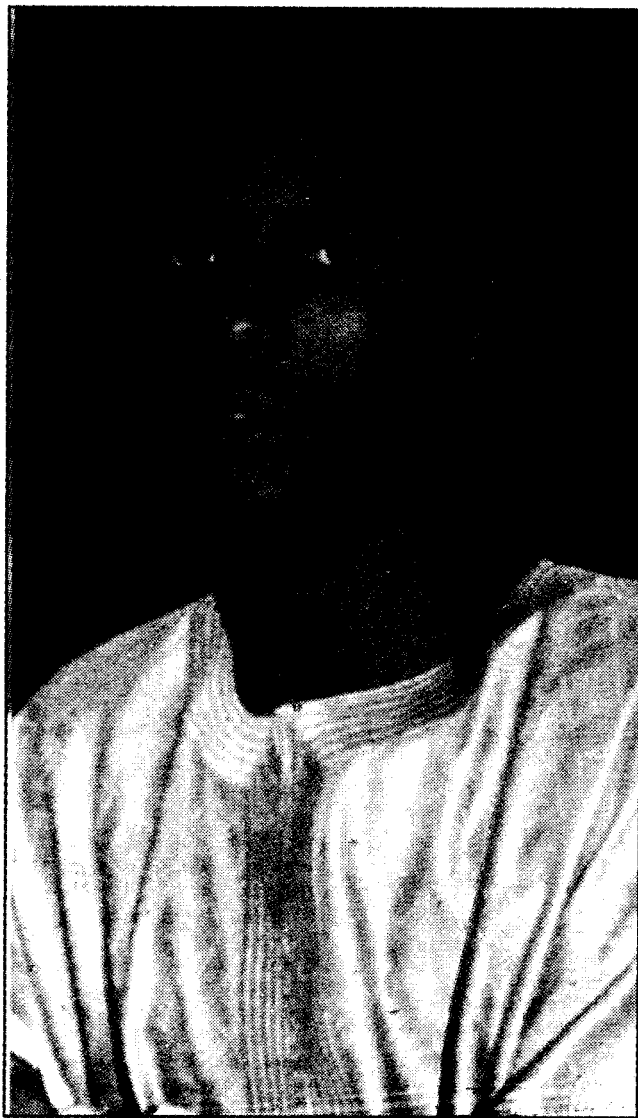
"Later I heard some noise outside and when I got outside, I saw Tobi Ogunleye with a long knife which he used to stab my husband in the chest, stomach and ribs while my husband was running. Ogunleye and Tunde Adebayo were pursuing him until he fell after he had lost a lot of blood," she recounted.

She tearfully added, "Now Tobi and Adebayo had turned me into a widow at 22 years".

Another eye-witness account revealed that Kola and Tobi were not in good terms which might be the reason he took such a dastardly action. He was also said to have stabbed someone to death in his former residence in Mushin from where he absconded to Agbado.

Mr. Kunle Kareem, who lives in the same building with the deceased, said he was surprised that a man could kill his fellow human being like that. "I helped them to carry the butchered body of Kola to the hospital; it is a pity that his heart was punctured as the doctor said," Kareem lamented.

Also, Kola was said to have been rushed to Winners' Clinic and Maternity Home at Ifelodun Street, Agbado where the doctor



•Kolawole Badejo

immediately tried to revive him. Unfortunately due to excessive bleeding, he gave up the ghost barely five minutes after he was brought in.

The doctor explained that the knife used to stab the deceased penetrated so deep into the heart and there was no way he could have made it.

Now, the police have arrested the furniture maker, Tunde Adebayo, the killer, Tobi Ogunleye and his wife for the death of Badejo. According to the deceased's family head, who also stands as his father, Mr. Joseph Badejo, the death of Kola is a rude shock to the entire family. He described

Kola as someone that has a friendly disposition; respectful and very lively.

The immediate younger brother of the deceased, Ajibade Badejo said that his brother was a very person. He described his death as painful. "My mother had six children for my father, now we are two that are left behind, four have died," he said with a sense of loss in his voice.

The Investigative Police Officer (IPO), Agbado Divisional Police Station said the case would be transferred to the Elewelan Police Station, Ogun State for further investigations.