

Man's mutilated body found in canal after friends invited him out

By [Kunle AKINRINADE](#) 23/04/2011 00:00:00

The circumstances in which a carpenter died in a Lagos neighbourhood has left friends and family members in utter confusion. Kehinde Akinpelu left his residence at No 1, Biliaminu Oliyide Street, Alagbado, Lagos State in the company of friends, only for his lifeless body to be found in a canal two days later.

On March 27, 2011, *Ogogo*, as Akinpelu was fondly called in the neighbourhood, was enjoying his favourite meal on a Sunday afternoon when he reportedly received a phone call from one of his friends called Ope, but he refused to pick it. A few minutes later, another friend of his called Saheed came in a car and requested Akinpelu to go with him to Oshodi for an urgent carpentry work.

Elated by the news of a job, the 37-year-old deceased carpenter and native of Awe, Oyo State, was said to have abandoned his meal and followed Saheed in his car. Two days later, he was found dead in a canal at Super Bus Stop along the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, Abule Egba, Lagos, with machete cuts all over his body. His eyes and tongue were also found to have been removed in a n incident that smacked of ritual killing.

Narrating the circumstances surrounding her husband's death, the deceased's widow, Yemisi, said: "On Sunday March 27, while my husband and I were taking our lunch at home, his phone rang but he didn't pick it, because it was one of his friends called Ope, who I had warned him to be wary of. Not long after, his other friend, Saheed, who lives at 14, Orilawe Street, Alagbado, Lagos, called him on the phone and told him that he would be coming to our residence to take him out for a job.

"Saheed told my husband that Ope had just moved into a new apartment somewhere and that he needed the assistance of my husband to fix some items. He (Akinpelu) returned at 1:00 pm and met me at one of my friends' shop. He told me that Saheed actually took him out to assist Ope in moving his belongings into a new apartment.

"He needed to explain because last December, both Ope and Saheed took my husband out and he had an overdose of alcohol even though he was known to detest liquor.

"Later that day, Saheed came again to pick him up for a job at his father's residence in Oshodi. Immediately Saheed entered our house, my husband got up, rushed to the bathroom and dressed up to follow him. I asked him to relax at home, but he explained that the job could fetch him extra money and that he would not want the job to be given to another person. He then asked me to kiss him, and I gave it to him, not knowing that it was a parting kiss he was asking for."

Later in the day, Yemisi called her husband to know what food he would like to have for dinner. He told her that he was already on his way home and was somewhere around Ile-Epo on the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

She said: "I first called him at 4:00pm to know his whereabouts, and he said they were caught in the traffic somewhere around Oshodi. When it was 6:00pm, I called him again and he replied that they were still in the traffic at Bolade, Oshodi. I told him to be careful because the general election was fast approaching.

"Then at 9.30pm, I spoke with him again on phone. This time, he told me he was at Ile-Epo. When I asked him what he would like to have for dinner, he said he was going to buy bread. I told him that I was already preparing rice for dinner. He then asked me to get a phone charger before he returned so that he could charge his phone."

By the time she tried to call him again, his line was switched off. On account of her exasperation, she decided to call Saheed to find out what was wrong, only to be told that her husband had alighted from the car somewhere in Oshodi.

"I tried again to speak with him on Saheed's line, because we usually watched *Labe Orun*, a Yoruba television programme, together. Saheed then told me that he had dropped my husband at a filling station near Brown Street, Oshodi. I did not believe him, so I asked him to wait for me in his house the following day.

"The next day, I went to his house in company with one of my friends, and I asked him to take me to the spot where he dropped my husband the previous day. When we got there, he could not offer any tangible explanation as to the actual spot where he dropped him. That confirmed my suspicion that there was a foul play. That made me to alert Saheed's landlord and other community leaders about my predicament, and it was suggested that we should search for my husband together.

"On Tuesday March 29, 2011, we went to search for him on the streets around the Ile-Epo axis where the deceased had told me he was before his line went dead. When we got to a point at Super Bus Stop, Saheed left us and stood transfixed at a spot near a canal. He later called us and said there was a man's corpse lying on his face in the canal. On sighting the corpse, I shouted that it was my husband, because I remembered the cloth he wore the day he left home.

"I was shocked to see my husband's tongue severed, while his eyes were already plucked out; even a section of his private part had been mutilated. That suggests that he was a victim of ritual killing. And as far as I am concerned, Saheed is a prime suspect, because he was the one who lured him out of the house to an unknown destination."

The nearby Lagos State Fire Service station was later contacted to remove the corpse to the Ikeja General Hospital, where it was deposited in the morgue.

The matter was then reported at the Ojokoro Police Station and Saheed was arrested and detained before he was transferred to the Homicide Section of the State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba, Lagos.

But the suspect has said he knew nothing about Akinpelu's death. He also identified Ope as the third person with whom they went out on the day the deceased died.

Yemisi recalled that Ope had taken her husband out last December and he ended up getting drunk to the extent that he was throwing up uncontrollably when he returned home.

She alleged: "The same Ope took my late husband out on a drinking spree and he got drunk so much so that he started vomiting. I told him I did not want him to have anything to do with Ope again, but I wouldn't know whether they met outside.

"I met my husband in March 2010, but unfortunately, he was killed in March this year; just when I thought I had found joy in my own dream man. Because of the kind of affection we shared, I still see his ghost and he talks with me almost on a daily basis. God will judge his killers," Yemisi said.

It was gathered that the Police took Saheed to Oshodi where he claimed that Ope was living, but when they got there, Ope had packed out of his home. They were told that Ope had relocated to an unknown place in Ijebuland, Ogun State.

Confirming the incident, Police Public Relations Officer in Lagos State, Samuel Jinadu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said Saheed had been arrested, adding that the homicide section of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) had taken over investigations into the matter.