Mother of four dies after serious beating by hubby over missing N1000

By Kunle Akinrinade 11/08/2012 01:24:00



The police in Ogun State are probing the death of a housewife. Mrs Bosede Akanbi, moments after she allegedly was beaten mercilessly by her husband, Mr. Bayo Akanbi. Although sources in the neighbourhood the of couple at No3, Irepodun Street, Adalemo, Agbado, Ogun State, said fighting between the deceased

mother of four and her husband had become a regular occurence lately, the one of Wednesday last week ended on a fatal note. Bosede, it was gathered, bled to death after she was beaten black and blue by her husband.

While there are two versions of the circumstances that led to Bosede's death, both accounts point to the fact that her sudden

death was not unconnected with an attack she had from her husband over a missing N1,000 note he kept in their room. Bosede was said to have explained to her husband that she took the money to defray some of her debts, but her "confession" was said to have only infuriated her husband who dealt her manyl blows, following which she bled profusely and later slumped and died.

The errant husband was said to have accused Bosede of stealing the N1000, which was part of the sum of N4000 kept with him by some members of a nearby mosque where the couple worshipped.

A resident, Mr Shakiru Oladerin, told our correspondent a version of the story, which he described as "very unfortunate".

He said: "Mr Akanbi is a taxi driver and he is popularly called Baba Sikiru in this area. He and his wife worship in a nearby mosque and some members of the Asalatu group in the mosque had kept about N4,000 with him. He did not tell his late wife about the money, but the woman stumbled on it where it was kept when she was looking for money to buy some things.

"When it was time to return the money to its owners, Akanbi discovered that N1,000 was missing from it, and that was what led to a fight.

"His wife had confessed that she actually took the money, but her husband was angry that it took her many hours to open up. This led to a fight and he was said to have beaten her to death."

Another resident, who asked not to be named, explained to our correspondent that Akanbi, who is now cooling his heels in police cell, had turned his wife into a punching bag lately.

The resident said: "The fight between Baba Sikiru and his late wife is not new at all. He is used to beating his wife. He had stopped her from selling bread and provisions at Adalemo Market because he feared she might be snatched from him.

"Although I have heard about the missing money theory too, I reliably learnt that the latest fight between the couple was the result of a disagreement they had over plans by the woman to attend a meeting of some Muslim women called Alasalatu. He even frowned at the woman for daring to send some refreshments to the group at their meeting.

"He beat the woman to the extent that she suffered internal bleeding. He did not bother to take her to the hospital even after she had complained of serious body pains. Hence, she slumped to death three days later.

"Baba Sikiru has been fighting his wife lately. Therefore, we cannot exonerate him of complicity in the death of his wife. He has demonstrated how unfeeling he is and he deserves every consequence of his actions."

One of the relations of the deceased woman, who asked not to be named, confided in our correspondent that the late Abeokuta-born petty trader had been subjected to a lot of "physical torture" by her husband lately, adding that the family had agreed to let off the case in the interest of the children.

The relation said: "I used to hear about their fights and how my aunt was beaten by her husband on many occasions, but I cannot determine the veracity of the story since I don't live with them.

"This time around, I also learnt that she was beaten by her husband and that she died moments later. However, the family has resolved to settle the matter amicably in the interest of peace and the future of the children of the couple."

It was further gathered that men of Agbado Police Station had a hectic time controlling residents who insisted on visiting jungle justice on Akanbi. The police were, however, able to arrest him after they were reinforced with mobile policemen who allegedly shot sporadically into the air to scare the mob away.

"People around had prevented some policemen from Agbado Police Station from arresting Baba Sikiru because they thought that he might later be released. Instead, they wanted to give him jungle justice. They were, however, overpowered, following a reinforcement of mobile policemen who were drafted to the scene.

"The mobile policemen shot into the air to disperse the crowd, and that was when Baba Sikiru was taken away to the station in a police van," said a resident who simply identified herself as Sherifat.

Sikiru, the eldest child of the couple, had just returned from his base in Warri, Delta State. He was said to have waded into the arrest of his father, asking for his release from police custody.

An impeccable source told our correspondent that Sikiru asked the police to stay off the matter and release his father.

The source said: "Sikiru has returned from his base in Warri, and he has said that the police should release his father so the family can resolve the matter amicably.

"Mr Akanbi told the police that he knew nothing about his wife's

death and that the frequent misunderstanding they had could not have made him to kill her. He told the police that she slumped while he was talking to her over the missing money and that all the efforts he made to revive her failed, adding that she died while she was being taken to the hospital."

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Ogun State Police Command, Mr Muyiwa Adejobi, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), in a text message forwarded to our correspondent, said: "The Divisional Police Officer of Agbado Police Station said it is not true that the woman was killed by her husband. He (DPO) said the woman died while she was being taken to hospital."

Our correspondent gathered that the case had been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Abeokuta for further investigation on the heels of allegations of complicity leveled against Akanbi by residents.

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