

# CITYBEATS

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## How policeman killed my husband, by widow

**W**ITH tears flowing down her cheeks, a widow, Sherifat Omotosho, yesterday relived how his husband, Azeez, was shot dead by a policeman in her presence on Saturday.

The incident, she said, occurred in Sogunle, a Lagos suburb, on their way home.

"He was my husband, I have three children for him, this one I am breastfeeding is the third and aged seven months. It (killing) happened yesterday; I was with my husband in his car, when he was killed by the policeman," she wailed.

Her tears attracted sympathisers, who gathered to console her.

On Saturday, the late Azeez went to pick his wife on the way to their 5, Jimmy Thomas Street, Sogunle home, he ran into his friend, who was arguing with a policeman. The deceased was said to have gone to find out what was amiss. A few minutes later, a shot rang out and he lay in dead in a pool of blood.

Sherifat said: "As I was waiting in the car for my husband to come back, I heard a gunshot and rushed to the spot. On arrival, I saw that it was my husband that was shot. As I was trying to know whether he was alive, the police corporal raised his hand (my husband's) and said

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'so he is still alive' and shot him again in my presence. I became confused and nearly collapsed at the terrible sight but I managed to run to my father-in-law's house to alert them."

According to other eyewitnesses, the corporal identified as Gabriel A.K Awilo of the Sogunle Police Station was drunk at the time. He was said to have escaped into the police station immediately after the shooting.

"Unfortunately, before people could come to my husband's rescue, the corporal had tactically escaped to Sogunle Police Station. People did not know that he was the one that shot my husband dead. He held one boy I did not know and shouted 'you have killed somebody; I must take you to the station. They did not know that it was a pretence to enable him escape," Sherifat said.

The Nation gathered that the late Omotosho's friend, Olanrewaju Abiodun called other sympathisers who stormed the police station, demanding for the arrest of the policeman.

Abiodun told The Nation: We assembled over 50 boys and marched to the police station to see the corporal, but we were prevented from gaining

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entry because the whole area was cordoned off by armed policemen with armoured tank. The policemen fired several shots into the air to scare us but we stood our ground."

Abiodun said after much pressure, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) met with the protesters following which he ordered Awilo's detention.

The protesting youths yesterday learnt that the corporal had been transferred to Area 'F' Command Headquarters for further investigations.



• The late Omotosho

"We moved to Area F Ikeja to see the Area Commander, an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ASP) Tunde Adagunduro. We were told the body had been deposited at the Ikeja General Hospital, from there we were referred to Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) where we took possession of the body. As we speak, the bullets are still lodged inside the deceased's body.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Superintendent, Ngozi Braide said it was a street party which degenerated into a fight which spilled to an area where the police were on patrol. The fighters, she claimed attacked the policemen and their vehicle, wounding a corporal.

She said investigations were ongoing to ascertain who shot the deceased.