

CRIME

• The late Amidu



• His widow, Sarah

25-yr-old man beaten to death hours before wedding engagement

■ **Kunle AKINRINADE** ■

Crue! fate played a fast one on 25-year-old Amidu Mulero. He was beaten to death by suspected hoodlums moments before his wedding engagement last Saturday. According to his bereaved father, Chief Mujaidu Mulero, Amidu was returning from a visit to his mother at Ifo, Ogun State, when he was attacked at Oju Ore Junction, Ota.

"He went out in the evening of Friday May 9, 2014 to visit his mother for discussions on his wedding engagement scheduled for the next day. He was returning on his motorbike about 9pm when he saw my brother stranded at Oju Ore Junction and decided to give him a ride. He had barely pulled up when the urchins emerged from nowhere and demanded an undisclosed amount from him for picking passengers.

"We gathered that he tried to explain to them that he was not a commercial motorcyclist and that he only wanted to offer his uncle a ride. He even showed them some loaves of bread he bought for dinner while explaining to them that he was a panel beater and not a commercial motorcyclist. His pleas fell on their deaf ear and an altercation ensued following which one of the urchins called Ramoni hit my son in the head with an iron rod. He fell in a pool of his own blood and was rushed to a private hospital for treatment but he died in the wee hours of Saturday May 10, which coincidentally was the day of his wedding engagement.

The 49-year-old father of the deceased explained that the culprit was arrested by bystanders but was freed by one Idowu, who allegedly mobilised some youths to rescue him.

"Ramoni was apprehended by sympathisers but was rescued by one Idowu, who is now being detained at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Eleweran, Abeokuta.

Amidu's widow, Sarah Ojo, 23, battled emotions while narrating the misfortune

which the death of her heartthrob has brought to her life, saying: "We have been dating for a year now and I am currently carrying a two-month pregnancy. We were supposed to have our engagement ceremony on the day he was gruesomely killed. He was very caring, unassuming and abhors fighting. He was a panel beater but sold motor oil as well.

"When he was leaving home that day about 6pm, he told me he had left some money for me on the bed and he left on his motorbike. He was attacked by some heartless 'area boys' at Oju Ore while returning home. I was with him at the hospital and he did not even open his eyes to see me or talk to me before he died about 4am on Saturday May 10, which was supposed to be our engagement day. He was fond of picking anyone he knew on his motorbike while returning home. He was generous to a fault and I will forever miss him...I can't still get over the shock of his death."

Recalling the incident, Babatunde Adebanjo, whom the late Amidu wanted to pick home on his motorbike, said: "I am Amidu's uncle. I did not even see him but he sighted me at the Oju Ore Bus Stop where I was waiting for a friend. He thought I was stranded and wanted to give me a ride home. I was still talking with him when some street urchins led by one Ramoni a.k.a Dr. Ray, gave him a deadly blow. Amidu fell down and passed out while efforts made to revive him failed.

Then, I grabbed Ramoni but his gang numbering over 20 and led by one Idowu beat me up and freed him. While they were taking him away, I held on to Idowu and subsequently handed him to men of Onipanu Police Division, Ota, while Amidu was rushed to Jericho Hospital for treatment. Unfortunately, he died in the wee hours of Saturday May 10."

Confirming the incident, the spokesman of Ogun Police Command, Mr. Muyiwa Adejobi, said: "Amidu was attacked about 2300 hours (11pm) at Oju Ore, Ota on Friday May 9. One Idowu is the only suspect we are having in our custody at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta. We shall charge him to court at the end of our investigation.

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