nent of n rage

icha loot stashed away el accounts abroad is the lifference of Nigerians ernments to the grave ng topic of Abacha's Indeed, sadly, Nigeria ced to the indignity of vith its traducers and

predators who stole facilitated the stealing of its resources. Chief Obasanjo h the Abacha family for he stolen money to be and there were even e of the returned money

l again. Subsequent including the Jonathan so negotiated with the amily, sometimes, but often slowly.

of the world, Nigerians e one of the most ople ever. To Nigerians both they and their can't seem to understand have the way they do. bacha's many sins, some in execrable openness, adorns many national A stadium and hospital er him somewhere in the the federal capital Abuja, o named after him, in he highly visible military nothing can assuage the Nigerians feel about the ndings relating to Gen incial malfeasances like s corpse, breathing life ting him to the harshest e, and punishing him nalignantly in the same raced and punished the e ruled for five e years.

n, considering how he reet in Abuja to be named le he is still in office, lacks he moral high ground to Abacha from the nation's . His successor should onerous responsibility. was Kanuri; but neither orno should have any amed after him. The late as born and bred in Kano; should also be banished historically influential of commerce. But if these entimental reasons, will honour Gen Abacha's name, let the federal at least have the courage name from all federal in Abuja. His name is to istant embarrassment and henever a discovery is rning one illegal foreign e other linked to the name former dictator, it is a reminder that, by to honour him, Nigeria its total lack of shame, modesty.

Africa lost about \$850bn

0 and 2008, the report said.

d \$217.7bn was illegally

out of Nigeria over that

e Egypt lost \$105.2bn and

more than \$81.8bn.

tale of 75-vr-old gumed down in Ondo after 35 yrs sojourn in US

HE story of Prince Gabriel Adefemi Ogundipe, a 75year-old chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Owo, Ondo State, easily draws tears.

His case is a sad reminder of the dangerous level to which the nation's security situation had sunk. Here was somebody who had toiled all his life and spent 35 years in the United States of America before returning home to settle down, only to be gunned down like a game!

Reports said Prince Ogundipe was attending a meeting of his party in his hometown, Owo, recently when word went round that a gang of armed robbers had invaded the town and embarked on a robbing and

Taiwo ABIODUN

killing spree.

While many ran away and others went into hiding, 75-yr-old Ogundipe decided home. Unfortunately, he fell into the net of the bandits.He was asked to alight from his Camry car. He did not argue with them. He quietly surrendered his car keys and other valuables demanded from him.

He was thereafter ordered to start running. He also obeyed, raising up his hands in a gesture of surrender. It was at this stage that he was killed in a most cold-blooded

manner.

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When the late Prince Gabriel Adefemi Ogundipe returned to Nigeria after staying in the United States of America for 35 years, he had no could be killed by some armed robbers who struck in Owo, Ondo State recently. TAIWO ABIODUN captures the fate that befell the America returnee.

HE well polished wooden casket bore the logo of the All Progressives Congress (APC). As it was lowered into the grave in an expansive compound in Ipenme, Owo, Ondo State, wailing sympathisers and family members rained curses on the dare devil bandits that sniffed life out of Prince Gabriel Adefemi Ogundipe a.k.a Londoner.

At 75, the late Ogundipe was certainly not a young man. But the way and manner the politician died was what pained the sympathisers. The deceased's children could not hold back tears as they beheld his lifeless body in a wooden casket. Family sources said that some of the children had actually expected him to pay them a visit in America in February but the journey was postponed because of an important ceremony he had to attend last month.

Penultimate Thursday, a wake was held at his residence while a church service was held at St. James' Anglican Church, Upenmen where sympathizers paid their last respects. At the event, the church's Vicar, Reverend S.O Akinro, spoke glowingly about the late Ogundipe.

How he was killed
Family sources said
Ogundipe was killed by bandits who invaded the ancient
town of Owo and rained bullets on innocent souls during
a robbery operation. Many of
the sympathisers could not
help wondering why he was
shot by the robbers after he had
released his car key and other
items to them.

According to an eyewitness account, the deceased septuagenarian was attending a meeting of the APC when the news began to spread that armed robbers had attacked some parts of the town. While some of the people at the meeting ran away and others went into hiding, the late Ogundipe decided to return home. Unfortunately, he took the route where the robbers had barricaded.

The robbers accosted him and asked him to alight from his vehicle. He obeyed and was immediately dispossessed of the money and other valuable items he had on him. Thereafter,

Pathetic story of 75-yr-old shot dead after 35 yrs sojourn in US

robbers asked him to start running. He raised his hands in a gesture of surrender and started running. One of the robbers was said to have fired a shot at him but missed target. A terrified Ogundipe then looked back and pleaded with

the them be the gun-wielding men not to kill him.

Unfortunately, his plea fell on deaf ears. The robbers fired another shot that caught him in the back and came out from his chest. He fell beside his Camry car, soaked in blood. Efforts made to revive him after the robbers had left failed.

Some good Samaritans took his lifeless body

families of

Ogundipe and

Ogundampe, he was

the last child of his

parents. He had his

primary education at

St. James' Anglican

have planned to travel to the United States to see his children but postponed it in order to participate in the burial ceremony of his father in-law, which took his lifeless body to the Federal Medical Centre in the town.

Life history Born in Ipenme near Owo, Ondo State in 1940 to the families of

was slated for the second week of April. He how-ever did not live to participate in the

burial

Primary School, Ipenme, then St. Andrew Primary School, Owo in 1952 where he completed his primary education. He went to Methodist Modern School and completed it in 1960. Life became worse when he had a broken leg in one of the football games in which he participated while representing his school.

After he recovered, he proceeded to Accra, Ghana, to join his late uncle, Rufus Ogundipe. He later attended O'ralley Secondary Grammar School in Accra, Ghana, where he was the school prefect. In 1969, he went to the United

States

of America to join his cousin, Ademola Adetula.
Adetula assisted the late Ogundipe to gain admission into LSD College, Salt Lake City, UTAH. Ogundipe later went to the University of Chicago where he bagged his Bsc and MSc degrees in International Relations.

He came back to Nigeria to work as a lecturer at the Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti. But when he found the environment not conducive, he went back until he finally retired in 1991 and stayed behind, preferring to live the remaining of his years in his country. Thus he came back to Nigeria in 2013 and started full-scale farming, growing yam, cassava and fruits, among others.

He later joined the APC in order to contribute his own quota to the community. His brilliant ideas earned him such nicknames as Obafemi Awolowo, Kwame Nkrumah and Adekunle Ajasin.

Premonition of his death

While the small town, Upenmen, was mourning, a woman who said the small community had been praying against any calamity, said: "We did not know that this was what we were praying against. As a cooperative community, we were asked to hold on to a pole at the King's palace and pray that no pillar of a household should die. We all did this as we were told not knowing that this was what was going to happen. Ogundipe was a pillar of Upenmen, not just of a household."

The late APC chieftain was said to have planned to travel to the United States to see his children but postponed it in order to participate in the burial ceremony of his father in-law, which was slated for the second week of April. He however did not live to participate in the burial. According to reports, he had sent out invitation cards and had prepared fully for the event before the cold hands of death snatched

While paying his tributes, Prof. Ibisesan Ayodele, who was visibly touched, described him as an epitome of character and an intelli-



gent man.

He wrote: "Omoh", "Awe"!!, "Elemele !!! The information on your demise en route the wicked and cruel hands of the men of the underworld on the fateful Thursday of March 26th 2015, after we had just parted for about 15 minutes, constitutes the greatest tragedy not only on me as a child-hood friend but also as on ULAC where I am the chairman and you were the Vice President, the age group where both of us worked, and relentlessly acted together to move the community forward as leaders...."

An Ondo State governorship aspirant in the state's last election, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, said: "It was a death too painful. The tragic news of the gruesome murder of Prince Gabriel Ogundipe Salokun of Ayiwoye Akinola ruling house of Upenmen land came as a rude shock to many people, especially those who saw him a few moments before his life was cut short by some brigands who came to wreck our peace in Owo. He will be sorely missed. May his resourceful soul rest in peace (amen)."

Dr (Mrs) Lambo could not control her tears as she spoke about the deceased. She said: "Prince Gabriel (Ogundipe) was my cousin. We were very close. I saw him last about 40 years ago. He was clean, humble and an easy going man. I was not myself when I heard of his death, It is too painful."

Mr. Samuel Olu Aragbaiye, a cousin of the deceased, described him as an epitome of charac-

ter who could not hurt a fly,

He said: "The news came as a rude shock to me. I believe God will surely expose the killers."

Mr. 'Demola Adetula, a former Managing Director of Owena Press, publisher of Hope Newspaper, described the late Ogundipe as a good man. "He has good exposure, very brilliant and humble. He is a colossus and a party chieftain who contributed brilliant ideas to the party."

Dele Adene said: "The old man was my uncle. He was the last born of his parents and he played a fatherly role in the family. I thought he would be as old as my late father who died at 110, for there is longevity in our lineage. But it is a pity these wicked robbers did their worst.

"My consolation is that he was a good Christian in his life time and surely he would be at the

right hand of God."

In tears, one of the children of the deceased, Adeola, wrote: "My father was a caring man who loved his family and his country very much. I could really go on for days on how great he is. But anyone who knows him personally would say a lot of the same thing. I pray that all his efforts towards a better tomorrow for Nigeria comes to fruition."

Tola, another daughter of the late Ogundipe, wrote: "My father always tried to see the best in people even though they proved him wrong time and time again. The country lost a great man .I hope now they finally know what they have

lost."