

Tragic Good Friday

Unknown gunmen kill 25-yr-old, injure others

■ Kunle AKINRINADE ■

A twenty five-year-old barber, Tope Ajibade, was killed by suspected cultists in the area of Adalemo of Sango-Ota, Ogun State penultimate Friday.

Ajibade, who is also a gospel artiste and five others were on their way to perform at a church programme to mark the Good Friday, when their assailants ambushed them at about 1 pm on Okewole Street off Arigbabu Street in Adalemo.

It was learnt that their three assailants spoke a cult slogan "Aburakanyan" before opening fire on them.

The late barber and his friends were said to have told their assailants that they did not understand the language.

Ajibade, who was said to have been shot on the chest and head allegedly died on the spot, while others escaped with gunshot injuries.

The body of the late barber has since been deposited in Ifo General Hospital mortuary, by men of Sango-Ota Police Station.

Ajibade's older brother, Babatunde Ajibade, however said his brother was not a cultist adding that his killers must be fished out by the police.

"Tope is not a cultist. He lived with me for over seven years before he moved into his own apartment in the neighbourhood.

"Apart from being a barber, he was also a singer and instrumentalist and attended a parish of Celestial Church of Christ in the neighbourhood. He was shot dead on Good Friday by unknown gun men on his way to perform at a programme organized by a Pentecostal church in Adalemo. His friends, who accompanied him on the trip, were also injured during the attack."

One of those injured, Seyi Alafia, recalled the incident saying: "We were on our way to perform at a church programme when we were ambushed by our assail-

ants. They came out of hiding and uttered some words we did not understand and it was at that point one of them instructed his colleague to open fire on us.

"One of the bullets hit my leg but I managed to escape and limped for hours until a good Samaritan rescued me. I have been taken to a hospital for treatment but doctors said it would take a while to remove the bullet lodged in my leg."

Our correspondent learnt that four persons have been arrested in connection with the incident.

The suspects were transferred to the Homicide Section of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Eleweran, Abeokuta. Ogun police spokesman, Mr. Muyiwa Adejobi, confirmed the incident in a telephone conversation with our correspondent.

He said: "Tope was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on his way to a church programme. He was going in company with some friends when they were attacked.

"Four of his friends who were also attacked were initially arrested but have since been released as there is no evidence of their complicity in the matt

er. Investigation is however ongoing in the community to unravel the mastermind of the attack."



• The late Tope