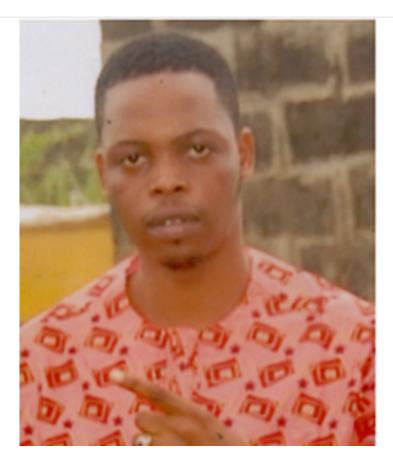
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Notorious gang kills 25-yr -old in Lagos community



The late Bello

Tragedy struck penultimate Saturday on Abudu Oladejo Street, off Alfa Nla Street, Agege, a Lagos suburb, after members of a terror gang, Awawa Boys, allegedly killed a 25-year-old man, Ibrahim Bello, aka Emir, during a robbery operation.

The hoodlums were said to have stormed the building where the late Bello lived in the wee hours of the day and robbed the occupants, moving from one apartment to the other.

It was learnt that the shout of Ole, Ole (thief, thief) by the distressed occupants roused Bello from his sleep, but was shot dead by the hoodlums when he stepped out of his room to look at what was happening.

Our correspondent gathered that the marauding boys also took away phones and other valuables belonging to the deceased youth.

The incident was reported to Isokoko Police Division.

Impeccable sources told The Nation that the hoodlums initially came to the street around 1 am, but were repelled by some vigilant youths in the neighbouhood.

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"They (Awawa boys), however returned around 4 am and caught the youths unawares. I think that they shot the boy (Bello) because he could identify some of them," said a source who spoke in confidence.

Our correspondent learnt that Bello was rushed to a nearby private hospital, from where he was transferred to a public hospital, where he was confirmed dead.

It was learnt that the hoodlums recently killed a man, popularly called Baba Lateef, in the neighbourhood.

Residents told The Nation that the police have not been able to contain the notorious Awawa boys in the neighbourhood.

One of Bello's siblings, who did not want his name in print, said:"I just covered my face when I heard the shout of Ole, Ole (thief, thief) by other tenants. Then I heard several gunshots without any inkling that my younger brother was the one shot.

"He was immediately rushed to a private hospital on Alfa Nla Street and later transferred to a state General Hospital, where he died."

It was learnt that the deceased was looking forward to the safe delivery of his expectant wife and had planned to throw a party in celebration of the arrival of his baby.

A cross section of residents urged security agents to step up patrol in the community in order to flush out members of the dreaded gang from the community.

The spokesman of Lagos State Police Command, Dolapo Badmos, has yet to respond to enquiries by our correspondent at press time.