

# 19-yr-old suspected *okada* snatcher jumps into river

with police in hot pursuit

■ Kunle AKINRINADE ■

**T**HERE was confusion in the Adigbe area of Abeokuta, Ogun State, after a 19-year-old, Hassan Fadipe, jumped into a river and drowned.

The incident occurred at about 12 noon on Sunday March 26, 2017.

It was said that the deceased and his friends were at the bank of Ogun River in the community to wash their clothes before the incident occurred.

A source said the deceased had bought a wrap of Indian hemp from a woman near the river and began to hallucinate shortly after he smoked the substance.

The Nation gathered that the deceased, in a fit of hallucination jumped into the river and drowned shortly after smoking the hard substance.

An eyewitness said his friends, who mocked his despicable conduct, initially moved him away from the river to a safe distance. "They were shocked when the deceased threw himself into the river," he said.

"When he jumped into the river, his friends did not take his action seriously because that was not the first time he would be having his bath in the river. However, they became worried when he did not return several minutes later.

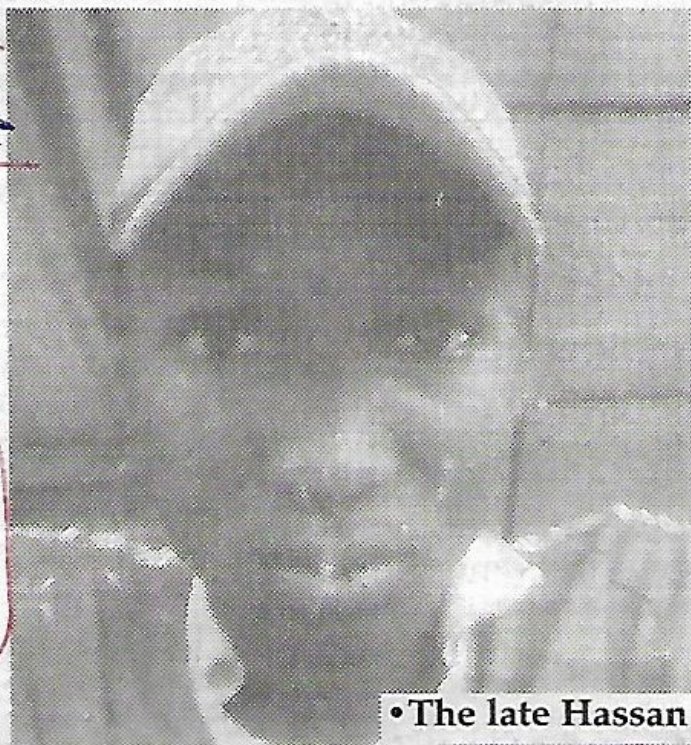
"Some of his friends combed the river and did not find his body until the next day," he added.

Fadipe, who was an aluminium fabricator until his unfortunate death was described as an unassuming person until he was influenced into hard drug by his colleagues at the firm where he trained as artisan.

"The boy used to be a cool-headed youth until he started going out with some misguided boys who influenced him into hemp smoking and other vices," said a resident who did not want to be mentioned.

Another version of the story as narrated by the spokesman of Ogun State Police Command, Mr. Abimbola Oyeyemi, however, has it that Fadipe was a member of a notorious gang that specialised in snatching motorcycles from commercial motorcyclists otherwise known as *okada* riders.

He said: "The boy (Fadipe) is not a hemp smoker. He was a suspected *okada* snatcher. He and his accomplices were chased by the police after they had attempted to snatch a motorcycle from a rider. In the process, a member of the gang was killed, while Fadipe and one other boy jumped into a canal. While his colleague died inside the canal, Fadipe was rescued and taken to one of the State General Hospitals, where he died."



• The late Hassan

## Police parade suspected