



Day okada riders stabbed man to death



by **Victor Oluwasegun** — October 4, 2019 in [News](#), [News Update](#)



Tosin Stephen Abikoye, a surveyor, had no inkling that death was awaiting him that Thursday night. He was returning home after the day's work at his Leisure Court office. Time was a little past 6pm and as he drove home, he was probably thinking of his wife and two lovely boys, a five-year-old, and the other just a little over five months.

For the Kogi State indigene, death came through some wrongheaded commercial motorcycle riders, commonly referred to as Okada riders. Many still wonder what anyone could have done to warrant such unnecessary and needless "execution". For, that was how Abikoye's senseless killing is being perceived by people that witnessed the dastardly act. It was a painful death in the hands of people that are largely seen as incapable of any rational thought processes.

An eye witness, while narrating the incident, said that Abikoye was returning from work, and had parked the car at a car wash near I.K Supermarket in Lugbe, a satellite town in the FCT. He had left the car to get something nearby when suddenly a commercial motorcycle rider who had a break failure rammed into the car. The usual argument ensued and Abikoye eventually told the bike man

and his passenger to go take care of their injuries. Another eyewitness said he even gave the motorcyclist some money for medication even though he (the bike rider) was at fault. Without making any fuss about the dent left on his car by the errant cyclist, Abikoye got into his car and headed his way.

At this point, the motorcyclists had mobilised some of his colleagues, in a typical fashion during disagreements with motorists. The bike rider and some of his colleagues chased after Abikoye for reasons no one could fathom, and shouting "barawo, barawo" (thief) as they pursued the driver and the car. Looking back and seeing the horde of bikers pursuing him, Abikoye probably got scared. Apparently thinking that he would be safe if he got to his street where he was well known, he headed in the direction of his house. But that turned out to be a big mistake.

A security man told The Nation that when bikers passed a nearby new site gate of the Federal Housing estate, some of their other colleagues joined in the chase, even without finding out what transpired. However, the fleeing Abikoye drove past his house and headed for a nearby hotel owned by someone he knew very well. He was said to have taken cover in one of the hotel rooms, having shaken off his pursuers. Unfortunately, a suya (barbecue) seller who was watching the unfolding drama from a distance, gave Abikoye away. The mob confronted the hotel manager, who they ordered to produce the man or risk having the facility burnt down. Left with no choice, the manager gave him up. And in a twinkle of an eye, daggers of different shapes and sizes started creeping out from under the filthy garments of the bike riders. And one after the other, the beasts stabbed Abikoye until he lost consciousness. He died as he was being rushed to the hospital.

Being a well known and well liked person in the community, there began an immediate uprising against all commercial motorcyclists in the vicinity. In retaliation, angry residents descended on any motorcycle in sight. And within a few hours, charred remains of burnt motorcycles littered the neighbourhood. In addition, the residents placed immediate ban on the activities of the commercial bike riders in the area till further notice. Residents of the area are now faced with the challenge of trekking long distances to get where they could get bikes to their destinations. A security man in the New Site estate informed our correspondent that the ban is permanent. "We are thinking of bringing Keke (tricycles) to start operating here".

When The Nation, visited the late Abikoye's house, the wife of the deceased, who is said to be nursing a five months old baby, had been relocated by the husband's family. The house, which wore a sad and forlorn look, was being guarded by a team of six armed policemen who told the reporter they were from the Force Headquarters

The Mai Angwar (chief of the community) Called Joseph, was not around when The Nation's correspondent visited his house on Monday. Neither was he at his hotel (where Abikoye was killed).

A lawyer, Steve Nwigwe noted that since it is a mob action, it would be difficult to isolate a single person for punishment. He however blamed the police in Lugbe division for not doing enough. "The Police are not doing anything. They must deploy three vans in different places along the axis. But this does not change the fact that the man is dead.

"I expected that bikes would be registered, at least before being allowed to function in the FCT. If they are, if they can't get the rider, they can get the owner who will then fish out the rider". According to the lawyer, the law in Nigeria forbids anyone from carrying arms of any kind. "But these bike riders carry daggers and the police know this and still allow it". He wondered if there are two sets of law governing the country, which allow some to carry weapons while others cannot.

Mr Adaralegbe Akintayo, the Managing Director of T. Pumpy where most people erroneously believe that Tosin worked, said it was unfortunate that a little accident could result in the death of an innocent person.

Akintayo said, "I know him because his boss is my friend, in the person of Segun Ajibola. But many people think he is one of my staff. But I know him through his boss. When the incident happened, I went to the hospital to see him, and I have said we should push so that the matter should not be swept under the carpet. He is generally know as an easy going person".

Abikoye's immediate boss, Mr. Segun Abolaji, said the deceased was a well loved person in the community and a hard worker. "He's just like a brother to me. His death, which was caused by a minor misunderstanding, was unnecessary. Well, there is nothing we can do now as we can't reverse his death".

Abikoye's cousin, Bayo Alfred, who works as a carpenter in the area, while speaking with our reporter, said he was known for his kindness and was willing to help anyone in distress. Even if it's the last food stuff in the house, he will give it out and say 'God will provide'. And the irony of the issue is that he had totally escaped the Okada people that were looking for him as they didn't know where he had entered and they had started leaving. But a Mallam that sells suya around the area called them back and pointed at where he had entered. That was how they brought him out and killed him. These are people we usually give jobs when available. The 'informant' had his shop burnt in retaliation.

Bayo said the wife had been moved to mararaba to be with the husband's family. She's deeply traumatized, he said.

Speaking on the issue, the Divisional Police Officer of the Lugbe Division, Chief Superintendent of Police, Raymond Anyim, said his division was aware of the matter. He however said any information required can only be sourced from the Police Public Relations Officer.

According to him, they have spoken with the headquarters verbally, and "we have sent our report".



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