

Police to probe death of transporter



Our Reporter April 26, 2024



- *I've no hand in Michael's killing, says alleged land grabber*

Michael's family had petitioned a deputy inspector general (DIG) of Police, Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), over the alleged involvement of Abiodun Ejigbadero, in the murder.

The family of the late transporter, Ajayi Michael, allegedly killed during a crisis among road transport workers at Alimosho Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in [Lagos State](#), still cries out for justice.

It urged the DIG to take over the case, alleging Ejigbadero, a top politician, would use his influence to evade justice.

The family's counsel, Gbenga Babawibe, said Ejigbadero, son of the late Jimoh Ejigbadero, on April 16, allegedly attacked Nigerian Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) branch office at Iyana-Ipaja.

Trouble began when the LCDA chair, Sulaiman Jelili, withdrew Ejigbadero's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) collection contract.

An angry Ejigbadero was said to have stormed the office with thugs to remove the new contractor.

In the fracas, Michael was shot dead, with others suffering gunshot wounds.

The police came and arrested Jelili, chair of NURTW chapter, Adedayo Omolani, Ejigbadero and others. They were later released.

Residents had always complained that Ejigbadero was intimidating them with fake documents to take over their land.

They alleged he said his father bought the lands from Alimosho Municipality, and accused him of extorting money from anyone owning shops..

“He claims his father owns the land. If we go to the police to complain, nothing happens.”

However, Ejigbadero said: “The land in the area is owned by my father and we have a court ruling that supports this.

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“We have collected dues for over 10 years. We collect money and use it to help the people.

“The council chair is attacking me because we are in opposing camps. Since then he has taken over almost all my jobs.

“I am not a union member, I only collect royalties on my father’s land. I’m not a tout.

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“One of my boys called me that a man sent them away, that the chairman told him we have a problem. I told him the place was not assigned to me by the chairman and that I was only operating on my father’s land. We earn N15,000 per day. So, I told him it’s not fair as he has his own establishment.

“I got a call they were going to attack my men, and I called NURTW chair in the state, Mustapha Adekunle (Sego), and he called everyone to order.

“Last Monday, I received another call that the criminals were planning to attack. I called the Gowon Estate Divisional Police Officer and he said he would take action.

“I called the area commander and went there the next day. Instead of the police taking action, I was told to write a petition and I asked my lawyer to do that”.

“I have no knowledge of Michael’s murder. I don’t have a gun and I didn’t buy one for anyone,” he stressed.

Police spokesman, Benjamin Hundeyin, said: “I am not aware of this matter but I will find out. We will investigate.”