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Yes, I smoke hemp, I'm tough but... —Man alleged of killing friend over phone charger

Written by Oluwatoyin Malik | Sunday, 04 August 2013 00:00 | font size | Print | Email

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BUT for the prompt intervention of policemen from Ogbere Division in Ogun State, Muyideen Olowolayemo, an indigene of Ijebu-Ife would have bid the world farewell. And the mob would not have regretted it because it would have been satisfied that Olowolayemo had been given the same taste of the food he allegedly gave his friend, Dele Adegbesan, whom he allegedly stabbed to death on Sunday, July 28 in his residence at Number 750, Isapodo Street, Ijebu-Ife.

Olowolayemo (33) was alleged to have slashed Dele's throat with a knife, during an argument over a phone charger which the



deceased requested from him. Neighbours were said to have intervened in the quarrel, advising the two friends to settle amicably. They were however shocked to find out shortly after that Dele had been killed, with his blood spattered all over the passage of the building he was residing in. The force with which the knife used for the killing was applied could be seen in the way the blade of the knife broke from the hold.

A resident of the building, one Yinka Kowobari, who narrated what he saw to the police, said that he was coming into the passage of his residence when he met Olowolayemo coming out of the building with his body soaked with blood. He added that the suspect held a knife in one hand and broken bottle in the

other.

Kowobari was said to have challenged him, asking him what he was doing there since he occupied another building within the compound. Instead of replying, the suspect allegedly ran into the bush. Kowobari was said to have gone in to check, only to discover the body of 33-year-old Dele in a pool of his blood. After the discovery, residents of the community reportedly went after him and tried to overpower him.

In the process, he was said to have attacked and injured one of them with a weapon he was holding, but was eventually subdued. The mob reportedly descended on Olowolayemo with everything they could lay their hands on. That was after he had been stripped naked. It was learnt that he would have been killed if not for the timely arrival of the police.

A police source told Crime Reports that other residents of the building told them that apart from the phone charger issue,

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Olowolayemo held a grudge against Dele because the deceased reported him to the local vigilance group over his suspicious movement and robbery activities on July 25. The building in which the deceased occupied a room was said to belong to Olowolayemo's family while he was also residing in another 10-room building within the same compound.

However, Olowolayemo, who is currently cooling his heels in the police cell at the State Criminal Investigation Department, Eleweran, denied killing his friend, saying that they never argued that day. Instead, he said, the deceased had an argument with his wife, Sewa, and he suspected that the lady brought some strangers to the house to deal with her husband.

According to Olowolayemo (33), who said he was a carpenter, "Before God and man, that day, I was at home washing plate at the backyard while I put rice on the stove. Dele came to meet me and asked for a phone charger. I told him to go to my room and take it. He went for it and as he came out, I asked him what the problem was between him and his wife. I told him to be patient.

"I saw three men outside who were strange faces sitting on an iron bench. I went to challenge them and demanded to know who they were asking for. They told me that the person they came to meet was the one quarrelling with his wife inside, that is, Dele. At that time, I heard Sewa, Dele's wife, telling her husband that 'if you want to send me away, at least you will let me take my hair dryer.'

"I continued what I was doing. Not quite five minutes after, I heard a scream that someone had killed Dele. The plate I was washing fell from my grip as a result of the shock of what I heard. At that time, my accuser, Yinka, who was very close to Dele, was inside the room watching film. Everyone ran away and I was shaking, so much afraid. Dele's wife came out and said Dele had been killed.

"Those three strangers were ahead of her and I overheard her telling them to run away. I saw him in the passage with blood everywhere. I left the food I was cooking and also ran away and went to hide by a coconut tree within the compound. This was because I was gripped with fear because I still ate with Dele the night before. We used to take things from each other.

I wanted to go to the neighbourhood to inform them of what had happened when I met Yinka, Dele's wife and some people whom the wife went to call, and I was accused of being the one who killed Dele.

"That was how a mob of over 300 people started hitting me with different objects. Some used cutlass, some used axe while others used charmed rings to hit me. I was stripped naked and my saving grace was that the police came to my rescue. If not, I would have been a dead person by now.

I did not kill Dele, they did not see the knife with me. I believe that those three strangers were the ones who committed the dastardly act. It is also not true that I held a broken bottle, it is a fabricated lie aimed at roping me in.

"Dele is not someone I could do that to. We were too close for such a thing to happen between us. No one reported me to any vigilante. What happened was that the vigilance group members complained that some boys used to hide stolen motorcycles in the building where Dele and others lived. They came to take us for questioning and also warned us to be careful.

"It is true I am a tough guy because I will not allow anyone to take me for a ride. All the marks you see on me, except the fresh ones were inflicted on me during fights when I was a tout issuing tickets at Ajegunle in Lagos. I will also not deny that I smoke Indian hemp. It was not as if I loved it, but I started when my father died, because I was depressed. I say it again, I did not kill Dele."

When contacted on the story, the Police Public Relations in Ogun State, DSP Muyiwa Adejobi, confirmed the story, saying homicide detectives were investigating the case, and if the suspect's culpability is established, then he would be charged to court accordingly.

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