



A vertical advertisement for Jumia Mobile Phones. At the top is an orange button with a right-pointing arrow and the text "SHOP NOW". Below this, the words "MOBILE PHONES" are written in large, bold, black capital letters. Underneath is a red banner with the text "LATEST MODELS, CHEAPEST PRICES" in white. The main image shows two smartphones: a black BlackBerry on the left and a Samsung on the right. The Samsung screen displays a colorful geometric pattern and the time "12:45" with the date "Mon, 24 February". Below the phones is a red circular badge with the text "STARTING FROM #11,495". At the bottom is the Jumia logo, which includes the word "JUMIA" and a shopping cart icon with a star.



FEATURES

How Lagos yam seller was killed in Niger for N1,650

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SHE traded in tubers of yam, and for these, she often travelled all the way to Paiko Local Government in Niger State to make purchases. On this final trip though, she never made it back. Death came in the cruellest way: she was strangled for a pittance.

Early that day on Wednesday, May 7, while dressing up in preparation for her return to Lagos after her business trip, Mrs. Dorcas Omolara Fashina would never have imagined that the little money she had in her handbag – which could barely transport her a few kilometres – would attract death to her.

About 4:00 p.m. that day, she stood by the roadside, along the Kpaki-Mokwa road, waiting for a vehicle. She wasn't alone; another man of Hausa extraction was also standing by, waiting for a vehicle – or so it seemed.

Not long afterward, an unpainted intra-city taxi came by. She flagged it down and negotiated the fare. It seemed both (woman and Hausa man) were going towards the same direction (they were going to Mokwa); so, both boarded the vehicle. And that was when cruel fate began to play its hand.

According to Saturday Tribune's findings, as soon as the commercial vehicle driver, Mallam Saidu, engaged gears and moved off, the unknown Hausa man spoke to the driver in Hausa, allegedly hinting him that his co-passenger had on her large sums of money, and that he and the driver should get rid of her, collect the money and share it equally.

Apparently, this sounded attractive to the driver. Unfortunately for Mrs Fashina, she did not understand Hausa language.

A police source told Saturday Tribune that the driver, having realised that the woman did not understand them, further drove some distance away from the point from where he picked the two passengers and stopped. And that was where they made their move.

Together, they forced Mrs Fashina out of the vehicle and took her bag, but not without first tying her with a rope and strangling her.

The police source, who did not want to be named, told Saturday Tribune that the driver and his accomplice had since been arrested and had confessed to the crime during interrogation at the Homicide Section of the Niger State Criminal Investigation Department, Minna.

Saidu was said to have told police that he and the other passenger tied the woman with a rope and strangled her.

Unfortunately, after they had killed the woman and taken her handbag, they opened it and found just N1,650 inside it.

"(Saidu) confessed to the police that when they searched her hand bag, they found N1,650 inside her purse – to their dismay, against the backdrop of the information (given to him) that the deceased businesswoman had in her possession large sums of money," the source said.

Obviously disappointed with the little amount they found on the deceased, the two men picked her mobile phone and put a call through to her son in Lagos, telling him that his mother had been kidnapped, and that she would not be released unless a ransom of N200,000 was paid.

"They told the late Mrs. Fashina's son (who was unaware that his mother had been killed) to pay the money into an account belonging to one Ibrahim Musa at a branch of a bank in Mokwa Local Government of Niger State.

"He paid the money as directed, and Saidu did receive the money and used it to buy a fairly used Toyota Corolla car – which has since been impounded by the police along with the one he used to pick the woman on Kpaki-Mokwa road," the source said.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Niger State command, Mr. Adamu Richard Oguche, confirmed the incident, adding that the two suspects had been charged to court.

He told Saturday Tribune on Thursday that "the police preferred a three-count charge of criminal conspiracy, robbery and culpable homicide against the suspects before the Chief Magistrates' Court 1, Minna, on Monday.

"In fact, the accused persons are now being remanded in the prisons custody on the orders of the court."