

Ese Water gave me gun to shoot at Accord Party members —Suspect

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ONE of the suspects arrested in connection with the fracas that broke during a meeting of Accord Party members recently, Afeez Ishola, has confessed that the leader of the gang which launched the attack on Accord Party members was the one who gave him a gun on the fateful day.

It will be recalled that thugs wielding dangerous weapons and pump action gun, led by one Yusuf Ogeroju a.k.a. Ese water, besieged Odinjo

area of Ibadan on March 1, 2015 and started firing sporadically, which resulted in the shooting of several persons, three of who died, while many others sustained injury. Ese Water also died later while receiving treatment in the hospital.

The Commissioner of Police, Muhammad Musa Katsina had informed Crime Reports during a press briefing that eight suspects were arrested in connection with the case. They are Afeez Ishola, Lekan Ogeroju, Kassim Ajibola, Kehinde Emiola, Olamide Ijaola, Sunday Balogun, Sikiru Tunayese and Musibau Akinola.

Ishola, who sustained bullet injury on the buttocks, confessed that it was Ese Water who invited him and gave him gun to attack the Accord Party group. Ishola, who said he was not a political thug but dealt in sale of land, narrated his involvement thus:

“I was on my way to Soka area of Ibadan to sign an agreement with a land buyer when Yusuf a.k.a Ese Water called me to return to Odinjo, saying that some people were disrupting the peace of the neighbourhood. That was about 5p.m. I returned and saw from afar off that some people were having a clash.

“Ese Water came to meet by the side of petrol station in the area and gave me a pump action gun, telling me that one of his group members had been shot by members of Accord Party. I know that Ese Water belonged to a political party (name withheld). He also held a locally-made pistol and led me on to where the fight was going on.

“As we approached the place, I noticed that supporters of the party also had guns. We started shooting at ourselves, though I was shooting into the air. I didn’t know whether I shot anyone. In the process, police came and I attempted to run away, dropping the pump action gun. I had already released two cartridges during shooting. But I was halted when I got shot in my buttocks.”

Ishola revealed how he learnt shooting, saying “it was Ese Water who taught me about a week before the incident. I saw the gun in the sack and I asked him questions about it, but he said I should not question him. He showed me how to load

it and remove cartridges from it. We were friends and we used to meet at a joint.

The suspect mentioned the name of one Asogbo as one of the perpetrators, stating that he was close to Ese Water but ran away on sighting the police. He added that Ese Water was a member of the NURTW.

"I know that my action was the devil's work and the fact that I didn't want to refuse the request by Ese Water. He was nice to me so much that he used to give me between N2,000 and N3,000 whenever I didn't have money," Ishola said

Another suspect, Akinola (25) claimed that he was a victim of circumstance, as he was trying to avoid being caught in the midst of shooting in his area when he was arrested. "I was at viewing centre watching football when we started hearing sound of gunshots. The owner of the centre did not lock the door so I ran into a building with another young man who lived in the building.

"Policemen came to knock the door and asked for the identities of two people who ran in. We were pointed out but occupants of the house identified the other boy and I was arrested. I asked to be taken to my house which was nearby but my plea was not granted. I was not part of the mayhem."

Kehinde Emiola (35) and Kassim Ajibola (34) also said that they were at New Day Hospital to look for an okada rider who had an accident. Emiola said: "I got a call that my okada rider, Ibrahim, had an accident, so I told Ajibola to follow me to check on him. We got to New Day Hospital but learnt that he was not there. As we made to leave, we saw policemen who arrested us."

Another suspect, Olamide Ijaola (27) said he was called by his girlfriend, Jelila, who was said to be Ese Water's sister, that her brother was shot and he should come and meet her at New Day Hospital. "I woke my friend, Sikiru who was sleeping, and told him to accompany me. At the hospital, we saw Ese Water with his entrails out and his abdomen plastered.

"I also met Lekan, who is Ese Water's cousin. I asked him what happened and he said he was also called by Ese Water's friends who brought him to the hospital that he had been shot. I was still asking whether a police report had been secured when SARS operatives came. I know that Ese Water used to work with politicians but I don't know the party he was working for."

Sunday Balogun (27) said he was also arrested at New Day Hospital, Academy." I was called by my conductor, Olamide who told me that his girlfriend's brother had been shot. I got there and saw the guy, Yusuf a.k.a Ese Water. It was not quite long after I got there that I was arrested," he stated.

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