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Youth leader arrested over with murder on election day (/content/youth-leader-arrested-over-murder-election-day)

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A 41-year-old man, Tajudeen Olagbaju a.k.a. Oji Olokose of Ilode area, Ile-Ife, Osun State is currently undergoing interrogation at the Department of Criminal Investigation in Osun State Police Command in connection with the murder of one Dare George at Okerewe, Ile-Ife on Saturday April 11. Dare was reportedly shot to death for unknown reasons.

Olagbaju, who was apprehended on April 30, was said to have made useful statement, that would assist the police to unravel the circumstances behind the murder of Dare.

Olagbaju, said to be known for thuggery and hooliganism, was accused of leading a gang and shooting the deceased with an unlicensed single barrel gun he inherited from his father.

Exhibits recovered from his house during a search by the police included a single-barrel gun with number P715711, a pump action gun with number 26594, six live cartridges, 29 brand new cutlasses, a used cutlass, a forest guard contractor hammer, a long sword and a wrap of weed suspected to be Indian hemp.

Others were an unregistered Mercury Villager Bus (branded with political party logo and colour) and an unregistered Kia Sportage Sport Utility Vehicle.

Crime Reports learnt that an eyewitness who spoke with the police (name withheld) described the killing as unfortunate. He disclosed that the incident occurred at about 5.30pm after the peaceful completion of the House of Assembly election in Ile-Ife on the fateful day.

"INEC officials and security agencies had left with the results when, suddenly, a Sienna bus parked at a distance. Some men, led by Olagbaju, emerged with guns from the bus one after the other, walking towards the direction of people who were in the environment.

"There was pandemonium as people took to their heels. Dare was unfortunate as he was caught by bullets while struggling to escape from the scene with his motorcycle. Olagbaju shot sporadically into the air to scare people and used the opportunity to escape," a police source quoted the eyewitness to have stated.

Below is the suspect's confession:

"I am a youth leader of my party (name withheld) in Ife East Local Government.

"I believe I didn't do anything wrong by being in my polling booth on April 11 during state House of Assembly election, though I was not a party agent. We were at the polling booth when some people came to disrupt the election. They said they wanted to take the ballot box away, asking members of my party to leave.

"Suddenly someone came and said he was looking me.

"I stood up to show myself. Immediately, he pointed a pump action gun at me, shot at me and turned to escape from the scene. I pursued him and got hold of him. He dropped the gun in the process and I picked it. His colleagues also ran away.

"I sat at the polling booth until the votes were being counted. While the counting was going on, a woman at a unit at Okerewe 1, called to inform that our party people were not allowed to vote and she would not sign the result sheet.

"I went there to see the police who manned the polling unit, repeating the complaint of our agent. Unfortunately, the loyalists of the other party surged at me and tore my shirt. I ran but they pelted me with stones and started shooting at me, though I was fortunate that none of the bullets penetrated my body. They had about six pump action guns and were also throwing bottles at me. I went to take a locally-made single barrel pistol and fired it. I took two live cartridges from the pump action gun I collected from my assailant for use in the pistol. Still, they pursued me, so I jumped on a bike and escaped.

"I was surprised when they came chanting towards my house late in the evening saying that they would kill me, my wife and children, and also burn my house. I learnt that they said I killed one boy and they would kill members of my party."

Meanwhile, the state Commissioner of Police, Abubakar Marafa, has promised that no stone would be left unturned as diligent investigation would be carried out to fish out any one culpable in the murder of the deceased. He added that such a person would be made to face the full wrath of the law at the conclusion of investigation.

CRIME REPORTS 1 (/FEATURES/CRIME-REPORTS-1)



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