

Area boys kill father of two over egunje in Lagos

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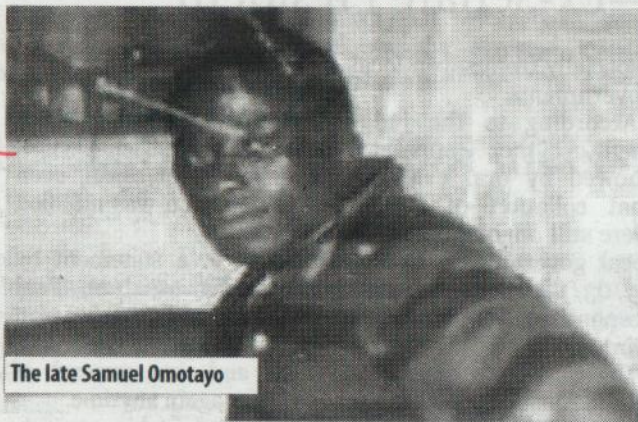
PANIC has continued to grip residents of Ekoru community in Lagos over the death of a resident of the area, who was stabbed to death by a group of Area boys, who were demanding for "egunje" from a landlord in the area.

The residents are not only clamouring for justice but also scared by the likely return of the hoodlums to the community as a result of their insistence on justice.

The 31-year-old deceased, identified as Samuel Omotayo, was on the fateful day returning home, when he ran into the hoodlums, who were protesting the refusal of a landlord in the area to give them money, after selling one of his buildings.

It was gathered that the hoodlums, numbering over ten, had accused the deceased father of two for daring them by walking into their midst while other residents were scared of them and running away from their side.

A younger brother to the deceased, Olorunfemi, while



The late Samuel Omotayo

speaking with the *Crime Reports*, appealed to the state police commissioner, Mr Fatai Owoseni, and the state government to ensure that the killers of his brother are brought to book.

Olorunfemi, who claimed he was with his brother a few hours before he was killed, narrated that: "I was with him around 9am when he told me he was going to Olorunda Street at Vulcanizer bus stop to buy something; I was shocked only to receive a phone call a few minutes later that he had been killed."

The deceased's younger brother said further that

"Samuel's death should not be swept under the carpet like other murder cases; his wife is pregnant with their third child. Who is going to take care of them now?"

The deceased's step mother, Mrs Omotayo, while speaking also stated that eye witnesses at the scene of the incident all stated that Samuel had no issue with the hoodlums.

The woman, who claimed she was at home when the incident happened, said that "before I got to the scene, Samuel had been rushed to the hospital, and the assailants had also fled the area.

Some residents and I rushed to the General Hospital at Ile-Epo, where he later died as a result of excessive blood loss.

"I want the Lagos State Police Command to fish out Samuel's killers; we want justice. Samuel must not die in vain. He was an easy going person in the community, and I don't know why they chose to kill him?"

A resident of the area who simply identified himself as Fusho, narrated that "the boys, about ten of them, were shouting and asking that a landlord who sold his house should settle them; they were just harassing residents of the community with their behaviour.

"Samuel was unfortunate to be coming at this particular time, he did not know what was happening, but they felt he did not accord them due respect because he didn't run; all of them then pounced on him.

"After they pushed him inside a gutter by the side of the road, they stabbed him on different parts of the body, including the neck,

before they left the scene.

"Nobody could stop them; even when they were beating him, everybody kept a distance.

Crime Reports gathered that it was when the hoodlums had escaped from the scene that some residents rushed to where Samuel was lying, "he had lost so much blood before sympathisers rushed him to the hospital."

Funsho, while speaking on the activities of the hoodlums in the area, said "they are called *Omo onile*, but in actual fact, they are area boys.

"These criminals are making life miserable for the people of the area.

"Till now, people are still afraid to open their shops. Many are scared that these criminals might come back to continue from where they stopped; the police and the Lagos State government should save us," Funsho said.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Joe Offor, confirmed the death of the deceased, while saying one of the suspected killers had been arrested.