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A 63-year old popular farmer, identified as Mr Idowu Oluwaponmile Samuel in Osogbo, Osun State capital, has been killed by unknown persons

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on his rice farm located around Ido-Osun community.

The sad incident which occurred about three weeks ago had thrown his family, friends and relatives into mourning, just as efforts by the Police to track down his alleged killers have thus far proved abortive.

When Saturday Tribune visited the residence of the deceased, said to be a retired management staff of the defunct NITEL, at Dada Estate area of Osogbo, his traumatised wife and one of his sons declined to comment on the incident.

However, one of the friends of the deceased who spoke to our correspondent stated that on the day of the incident, Idowu went to his rice farm, at Ido-Osun community, in the company of two men he had just employed through the assistance of someone who resides in Iwo community, whose identity could not be ascertained.

A friend who pleaded anonymity stated that, "Idowu was tied by his assailants to a tree with a long and strong rope from the neck to the feet and his mouth stuffed with clothes. They later made away with his Nissan Q Infinity jeep."

He added that his lifeless body was found by his wife, son and some few others around 10:00 pm tied to the tree after a search was conducted due to his failure to return home.

According to him, "Idowu had in his procession one other farm at Ofatedo area at the outskirt of Osogbo, where he processed palm oil with agro machines, while he also possessed properties, including a shopping complex at Odi Olowo area."

Meanwhile, security source informed Saturday Tribune that the mobile telephone line of the person who introduced the two newly contracted farm workers to the deceased, which was hitherto

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being tracked by the security agencies had been switched off.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of Osun State Police command, Mrs Folasade Odoro confirmed the incident, saying investigation was ongoing at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) to arrest the perpetrators of the dastardly act and bring them to justice.

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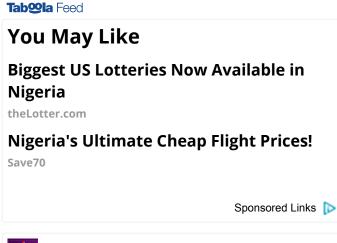
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