

Miscreant murders 24-year-old in cold blood

DADA ALADELOKUN

EVEN the blind would sense that the forthcoming Christmas celebrations mean nothing to the old woman, Mrs. Oluyemi Taiwo. She lost one of her only two children, Ganiyu, in a gruesome fashion on September 6, 2006.

On that day, 24-year-old Ganiyu woke up at his Taiwo Olori Street, Shogunle, Lagos, residence without any sickness. As usual, he packed his chisel, hammer and other tools and left for his carpentry workshop.

Towards evening, as he was about closing for the day, a group of people had gathered to watch a football match. That gathering was actually the beginning of a great trouble that led to bloodshed and death. An argument suddenly ensued among them that made them grow wild with rage.

Before long, bottles and other dangerous objects were flying and neighbours ran helter-skelter.

"It was real hell. Only God saved me. I saw guns and I shivered. It began at about 7pm when there was an argument over the match that was going on that day," an eyewitness who simply gave her name as Olalere, told *Sunday Punch* during the week.

For several hours, the entire area was tension-soaked as the irate boys were busy attacking one another. Gunshots displaced the peace of the neighbourhood.

Ganiyu was supposed to have returned home about 7pm, but his mother urged him to tarry till the fracas subsided.

At about 10pm, he made for home, thinking the coast was clear. He miscalculated: the "kings of the streets" were still on rampage.

Just a few metres away from home, Ganiyu encoun-

•Victim's mother demands justice

tered ill-luck as one of the hoodlums called Razak Bello, alias *Hamburger*, allegedly shot him repeatedly at close range.

Soon after, a courageous passer-by recognised Ganiyu in a pool of his blood and quickly alerted his elder brother, Jamiu.

"I rushed down the street and met him in pains. I could not but weep and at the same time, carried him with the blood that was all over him. All he was saying was, 'It was *Hamburger* who shot me o... It was *Hamburger* who shot me o!'" In that situation, I was confused. If I had a recorder, it would have given the world the opportunity to hear his last words," Jamiu recalled in tears.

Ganiyu later died. His corpse has since been deposited at the morgue of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja.

"I've been crying everyday. If there was only one responsible child in this world, it was Ganiyu, my son. Rather than kill him, they should have come to kill me," Mrs. Taiwo lamented, as she rained curses on those who killed his beloved son.

The family's lawyer, Mr. Rasheed Adenekan, who had also fallen victim to *Hamburger's* alleged terrorist activities, alleged that the latter had become a monster to residents of both Shogunle and Ladipo. He said it was time the police stopped his "terrible" gang.

"I have been in practice for over 15 years and I started living in Shogunle in 1973. *Hamburger's* heartlessness is rare. In the course of my career, I have bailed him out of police custody twice. In the course of my efforts to check

the nefarious acts of his cohorts in this area, he attacked me violently and vandalised my two Mercedes Benz cars in February, this year. It was God that saved me."

Sule Balogun, also a resident and beef seller, will never forget the raw deal he once had with *Hamburger* for refusing to give him money as "the lord of the entire area."

Balogun said, "He has constituted himself into an authority in this area. He often boasted that no policeman could do him anything. Any small thing, he would bring out guns with his boys. We have left them to God."

Meanwhile, the State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba, which took over the case from Makinde Police Station, Oshodi, is working to ensure justice in the matter. "*Hamburger's* case? He is already in Kirikiri Prisons. I can assure you that justice will be done in the case," confirmed an official of the SCID during the week.

In the meantime, the entire community is in utter fear of possible reprisal attacks by *Hamburger's* "troop."

Some people working for one Chief Abiodun Yinka Olushi, a businessman op-

erating in the area, said they were scared to death. One of them said. "Whenever *Hamburger* came with his trouble, tormenting residents, Chief Olushi was always on hand to defend innocent residents. Because of his patriotic roles, the terrible boys have marked him down for attacks."

Jamiu, who said he had a one-on-one encounter with *Hamburger* at the SCID, told our correspondent on Monday, "He threatened to deal with me by the time he came out of the prison and I told the policemen at the SCID instantly."

However, police spokesman in the state, Olubode Ojajuni, has allayed the residents' fears, saying, "Nobody is above the law of the land. The era when somebody would hold a people to ransom is over; we are equal to the task."

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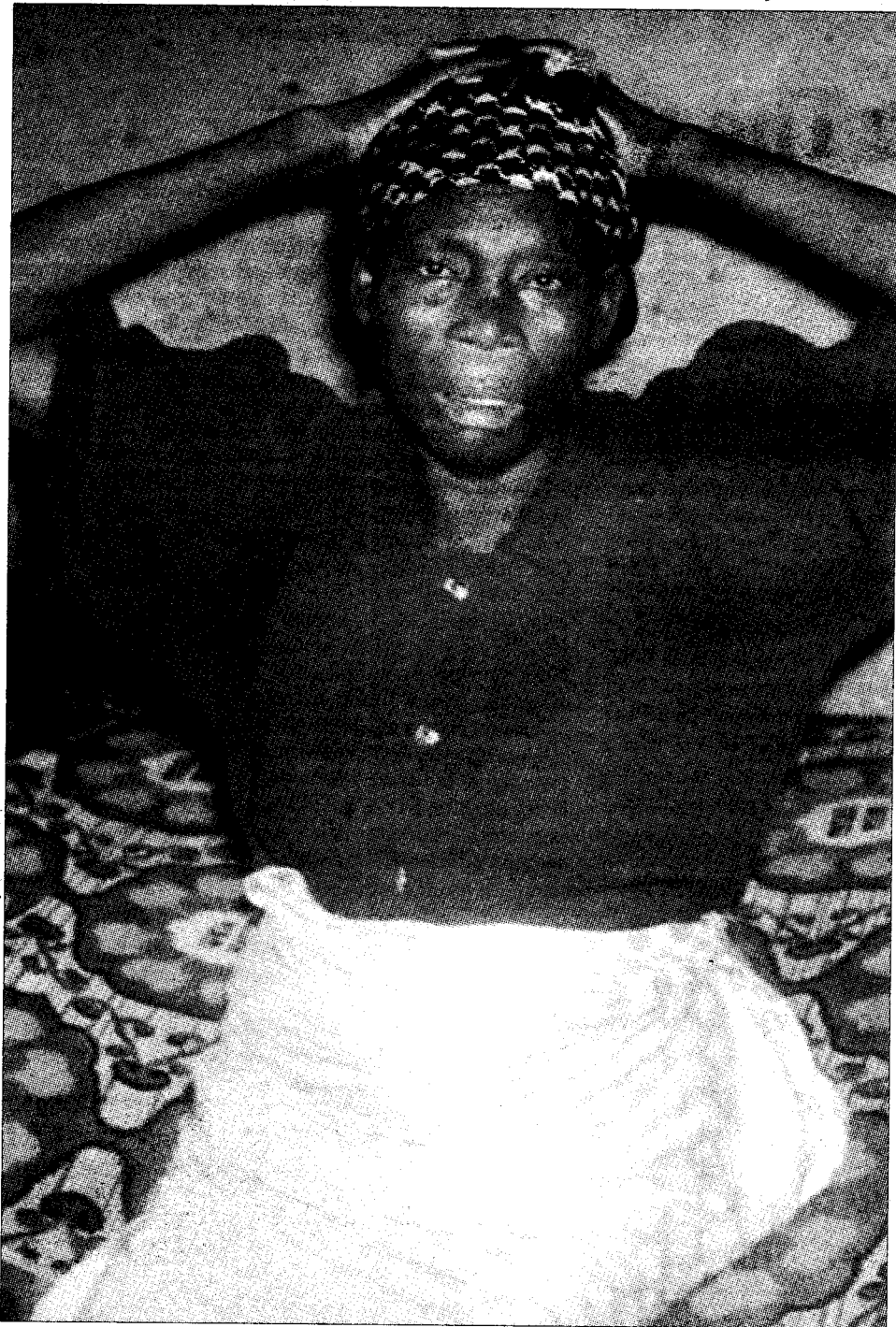
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**Conferment by
Mr President.**

...Kaabiyese O! O! O!



**From
Your Bamofin & Yeye Bamofin
of Iwoland
Chief & Chief (Mrs)
Ayo Aremu**



•Mrs. Taiwo