

Sesan Olufowobi

Forty-year-old Chadian, Ibrahim Usman, on Thursday, last week became a guest of the Homicide Section of the State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Lagos; after he allegedly stabbed to death a man he suspected to be having an affair with his wife.

Usman was until the fateful day a night guard with a company on Tin-Can Island, Apapa, Lagos. He would leave his Amuwo-Odofin residence for work every evening, and return in the morning to the embrace of his wife, Amma. But all that have changed since he drew the dagger and stabbed Ahmed Aminu to death.

Aminu was said to be in his late 30s when Usman drove the dagger into his heart and sent him to grave before he could celebrate his 40th birthday.

But Usman said he did not really set out to kill Ahmed, but was only desperate to do something in defence of his manhood, which he said was threatened by Ahmed's continuous affair with his wife.

Speaking with *Saturday Punch* at Panti on Wednesday, Usman said he had monitored Ahmed and his wife for six months and discovered that they were dating each other. "He made love to my wife regularly for about six months. I did not know about it initially. But when I discovered it, I had to do something," he said in poor English.

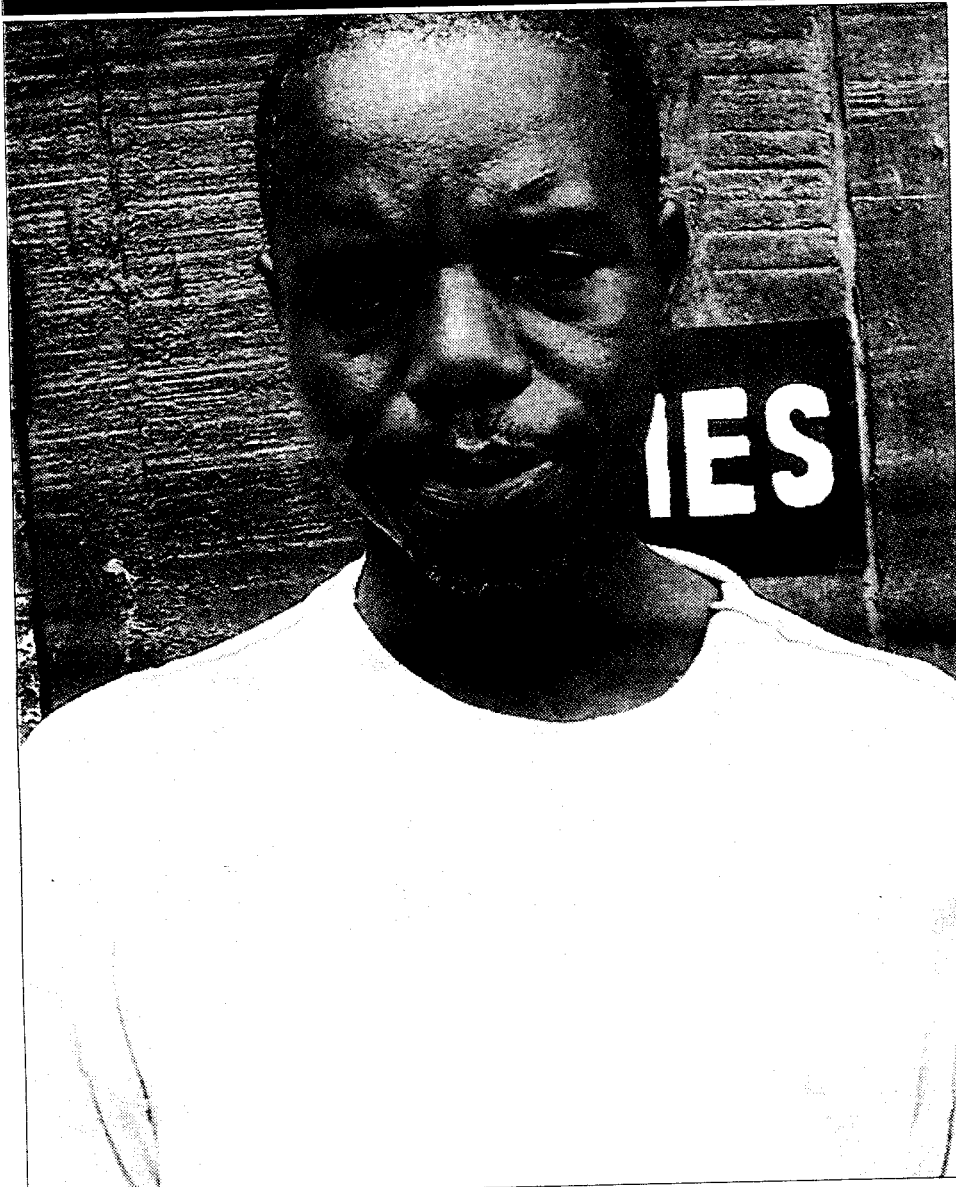
The suspect said he got to know about the affair between his wife and Ahmed from neighbours who advised him to do something about it. "I did not suspect them early because Ahmed was my younger brother. We came together from Chad to Nigeria about 21 years ago."

He said he had considered it unthinkable that Ahmed and his wife of six years, who he described as "a sweet girl," could do any such thing to him.

But he began to suspect the pair when Amma, according to him, began to get unusually intimate with Ahmed. "We live in Amuwo Odofin," he said. "I began to notice that anytime my wife went to the market, she would return very late. One day, I went on her trail and noticed that instead of going to the market, she took a bus that was going to Apapa. When she got to the roundabout at Apapa, she boarded a motorcycle to the house where

DEADLY AFFAIR

Man stabs younger brother to death for allegedly making love to his wife



•Usman

Aminu worked as a guard. That happened twice."

Usman said the reality of the affair be-

tween his wife and a fellow he regarded as his younger brother shattered him. He said for days, he lost every sense of di-

rection, going around and not knowing what to do. "I later went to him and begged him not to do it with my wife again, but he still continued. I warned him for six months, but he was still doing the thing." *Haba, six month no be small thing.*

He also said he called an elderly gentleman, also a Chadian, to warn Aminu. "He promised that he would stop. But I knew he did not stop. But I did not see him in my house again until that day."

Saturday Punch gathered that Usman had left home around 5:30 pm on the day of the incident and told his wife that he would return the following day. However, he came back barely three hours later. As he was coming, he allegedly saw Aminu emerging from his (Usman's) residence. It was too much for Usman to take. He ran after Aminu and, in his fury, drew out two daggers and stabbed Aminu randomly until he gave up the ghost. He then ran into the house and began to chase his wife, stabbing her in the back as she fled for dear life.

Recalling the tragic incident on Wednesday, Usman said it was the handiwork of the Devil. "I only wanted to mark him the way I marked my wife. I did not even know he had died. It was a mistake. People were talking about the affair in the neighbourhood and I warned him to stop it."

When *Saturday Punch* visited the home address given by Usman on Thursday, no one seemed to know the whereabouts of his wife. In fact, some of the residents denied knowing Usman, or being aware of the incident. "God will not allow death in these flats. We will all live long," thundered an elderly woman who spoke for the other residents.

Investigations, however, revealed that residents of the area were actually aware of the incident, but were reluctant to talk about it. A bricklayer, who was in charge of the renovation being done on a building in the neighbourhood, pleaded anonymity while telling *Saturday Punch* that Usman was not a troublemaker and only a few people in the area knew him before the incident.

Pointing to some makeshift structures in the area, he said that Usman and his wife used to live in one of them, but he would not know the particular one because he was not Usman's friend.

Another neighbour hinted that the police had taken Usman's wife to the hospital. But efforts to get the police to disclose the hospital on Thursday were rebuffed for what an officer termed "security reasons."

Lagos Police Command spokesman, Olubode Ojajuni (SP), said Usman would be charged to court as soon as investigation was concluded.



•Aminu's body