

Thugs strangulate man to death

Sunday Aborisode

A young man, Mr. Ikechukwu Onyemaechi Onyelekere, has been reportedly strangulated to death, by a gang of thugs over an alleged sale of a property at the Idi-Apa area of Okota, Lagos State.

Onyelekere was living with his parents in the building, which was said to have been sold to a manufacturing company, by the owners.

Our correspondent learnt that the tenants were still discussing with the owner of the property, who had given them quit notice, when the incident happened on September 4.

The thugs allegedly besieged the premises in the early hours on that date, and strangulated the young man.

A Lagos-based lawyer, who is the spokesman for the Onyelekere family, Mr.

Wale Ogunade, told our correspondent on Wednesday that the thugs were allegedly led by three persons (names withheld).

Ogunade said the matter was reported at the Okota police station before it was transferred to the state's Criminal Investigation Department at Panty Street, Yaba.

He said the family was worried that the detectives in Panty were not communicating with them again and that the alleged perpetrators of the act were yet to be arrested.

Ogunade said, "The family is worried that, till date, no action has been taken by the Nigerian Police at Panty despite repeated assurance.

"The disheartening thing about this whole issue is that members of the said gang are boasting around the town that nothing can happen to them because they are well connected in

the police circles.

"They are still walking freely on the streets threatening to wreck more havoc on anyone they found in the factory, when next they come."

The lawyer described the late Onyelekere as an easy going young man, who, was preparing for his wedding, slated for October 28 this year, when he was murdered.

The Public Relations Officer of the state command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed to our correspondent that the case had been transferred to the Force Criminal Investigation Department from the state CID.

Sources at the FCID, however, told our correspondent that the three alleged leaders of the gang, who were suspects in the case, would not escape justice if the current investigation by the detectives showed that they are connected with the murder.