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Man dies after fight with soldiers

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A 50-year-old man, Enilari Suraju, died on Friday in Lagos from a head injury he allegedly sustained on Wednesday in a fight with two soldiers, who had a disagreement with him in Apapa, Lagos State.

Saturday Punch learnt that Enilari, a father of four, incurred the wrath of the soldiers from Arakan Barracks after he was nearly knocked down by their car and he angrily warned them to drive carefully.

It was further gathered that Enilari who lived in Adeniji-Adele Housing Estate Phase 2 on the Lagos Island, had gone to Apapa office of the Nigeria Flour Mills, to sign for a consignment of flour he wanted the company to deliver to his office.

"He was coming from the place when the car the men were driving hit him. He fell down and angrily told the men to be careful not to kill him. It was the mention of 'kill' that got the soldiers infuriated and they challenged him.

"One of them initially beat him up with his big belt. Later the other man came down from the car and joined in the beating. Before anyone could do any thing, he carried a plank and hit Enilari on the head. All the while he had started bleeding from the beating he received from the first officer, but when the second man hit him with the plank his head started to gush out blood," a family member narrated.

At this point Enilari was said to have refused to let go of one of the soldiers. Not quite long, the police came to the scene and took him and the soldiers to the police station. "They (police) told him to go and treat himself and report to them the following day. But he was in so much pain on Thursday that he could not muster the strength to go to the police station. We planned to go today, but he died in the early hours of today (Friday)," the family source said.

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