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Concubine in trouble over lover's death

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Published: Monday, 16 Mar 2009

If 25-year-old motorcycle mechanic and hunter, Olaolu Olatunji, had been forewarned to beware of the Ides of March, maybe he wouldn't have shunned such a warning like Roman general and statesman, Julius Caesar, did when he was warned by a soothsayer. Olatunji was alone inside his room with his 40-year-old concubine, Eunice Towoju, when his hunting rifle went off, ripping his bowel open, killing him almost instantly on March 4, 2009. Moralists and purists would agree that Olatunji was at the right place, doing the wrong thing when death struck.



House

File

Ipetu-Ile community in Obokun Local Government Council of Osun State was gradually drifting into sleep when the two lovers retired into the bedroom and Towoju must have looked forward to enjoying the warmth of her young lover's touch when she decided to spend the night with him. She

obviously must be regretting that decision by now.

For Towoju, these are, indeed, times that try the soul. The odds are stacked against her; she was the wife to the late uncle of Olatunji and she was never betrothed to him in the traditional African way. Also, she was the only one in the room with Olatunji when his hunting rifle went off, snuffing life out of him. Speculations are rife that the two lovers engaged in an argument when Olatunji expressed his desire to go hunting after they had eaten and been together in the room for a period of time. An indigene, who spoke with our correspondent on Friday in Ipetu-Ile said, Towoju opposed the decision of Olatunji to go hunting in the night, pleading with him to stay with her.

He added that the refusal of the hunter led to a struggle over the hunting gun. The gun allegedly went off during the struggle and killed Olatunji.

But Towoju denied the claim. In her statement to the police, she admitted that the gun killed Olatunji, but maintained that she did not shoot the gun. When Olatunji was in the throes of death, Towoju did not desert him; she ran to the relatives of her lover and told them about the incident. But Olatunji, who had two wives, died about 12 midnight before help arrived, having lost too much blood.

Younger brother of the deceased, Ayo, who spoke with our correspondent at the Olatunji family house in Ipetu-Ile, described the incident as unfortunate. He said, "It's an unfortunate incident. I would have rather loved good things to happen to our family than this type of incident. We are not happy at all. My brother had two wives; one of them had died when he was still living. My brother was a very kind, gentle and easy-going man, who loved his family. The family will not engage in any legal prosecution of anybody. We are leaving the case to God."

Our correspondent gathered that two hunters had been inadvertently killed on separate hunting expeditions in Ipetu-Ile in the past by their colleagues.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Osun State Command, Mr Olabode Akinola, who confirmed the killing of Olatunji, said the case had been transferred to the state Criminal Investigation Department, Osogbo, for a detailed investigation. He said, "Police preliminary investigations showed that the two of them were in the room when the gun exploded. We are going to investigate the insinuation that an argument ensued between the two on whether or not the man should go for hunting. The woman admitted that she advised him against going to hunt on the fateful day. The man's family said they did not want to go on with the case but this is a serious case against the state and we are going

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to treat it as such. We are taking the gun to our laboratory for forensic analysis.”

If forensic analysis proves that Towoju actually fired the shot that killed Olatunji, the duty of the prosecution would be less cumbersome as such evidence could be enough to earn conviction. On the other hand, the burden of proof rests on the prosecution, who must prove beyond reasonable doubt, through a preponderance of evidence, that the defendant is responsible for the alleged murder.







Evidence, in law, is the means by which disputed facts are proved to be true or untrue in any trial before a court of law. Effectiveness of evidence is generally determined by how persuasive the evidence seems, especially to a jury.

If no forensic or other circumstantial evidence links Towoju with the killing and she insists that she did not fire the shot that terminated the life of Olatunji, she might not be convicted as there was no eyewitness even as the defence would also seek to turn the attention of the court to the possibility that the gun might have gone off as a result of a mechanical fault.

Whichever way the case goes, Olatunji is not the only victim in this saga, his only surviving wife and children, who are left to bear the pains and shame, also are and they will live to remember the sad end of their breadwinner.

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