

FEATURE

Lagos killer police sergeant stabs 32-year-old father of three to death

...roams free, police authorities mum

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As many families were busy celebrating the last Christmas and the advent of a new year, the only thought that occupied the minds of the Adenusi family was how to bring the killer of their 32-year-old son, Kolawole Adenusi, to justice.

The family accuses a policeman, Sergeant Semiu Asimiyu of killing Kolawole. They also claim Asimiyu is now roaming free after sending their son to an early grave.

The family was thrown into mourning on December 2, 2009, when Asimiyu, who is attached to the MOPOL 20 Squadron, Ikeja, Lagos, stabbed Adenusi in the chest with a dagger.

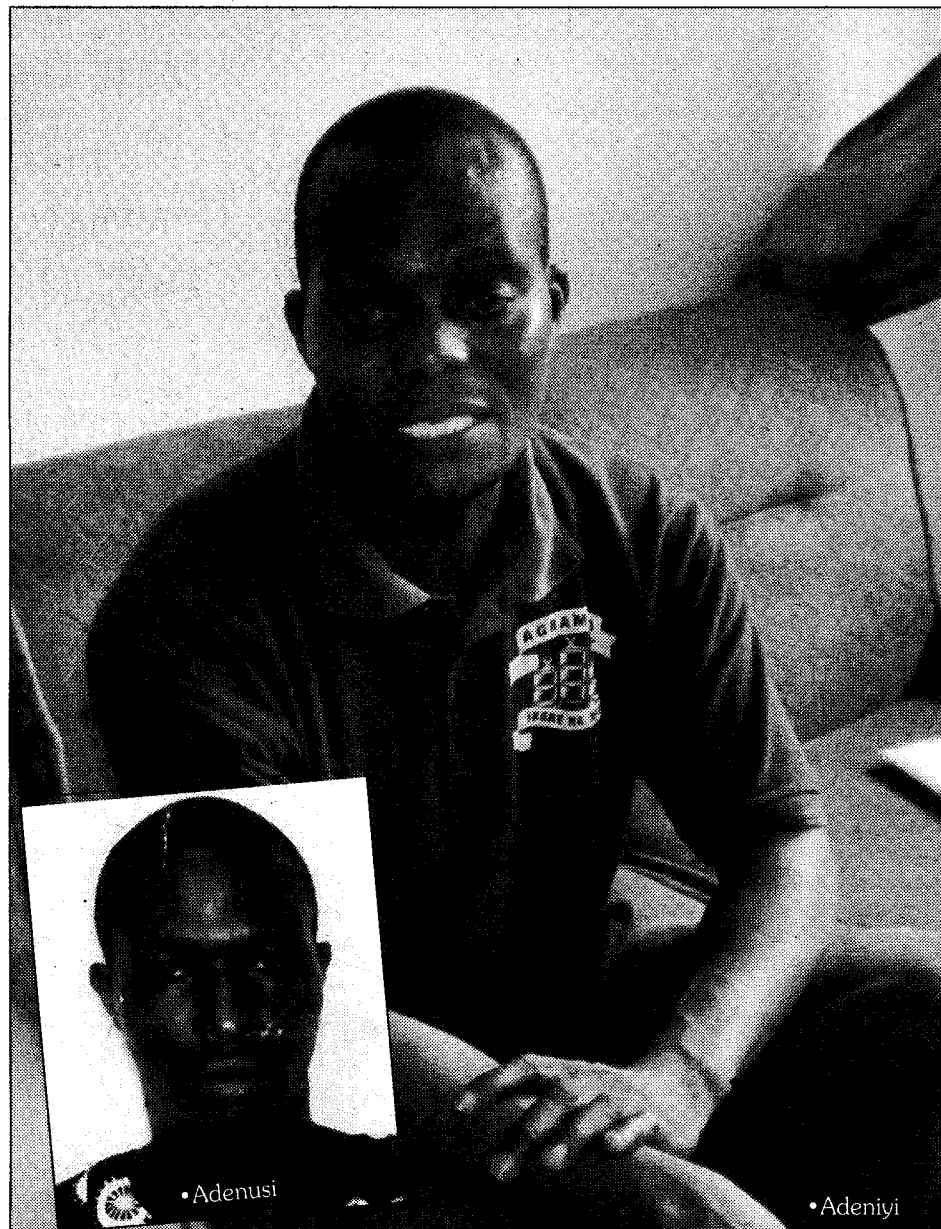
Explaining the events that led to the ugly incident, Kolawole's elder brother, Adeniyi, said the two men had maintained some closeness before the incident. He said, "They used to take the same *okada* (commercial motorcycle) to Ikorodu where both of them lived. My brother lived in Majidun while Mopol (Asimiyu) lives in Isawo. They used to respect each other before this madness. I don't know what went wrong."

Adenusi, a printer, had his shop on Akeju Street, Somolu, Lagos State. It was gathered that at the end of work each day, he would go to his friend's house at 31, Olabiran Street, Somolu, to take his bath before heading to Ikorodu where he lived with his wife and three children.

"He used to go there to have a bath because he had a friend there. In fact, he used to live there before he got a bigger apartment in Ikorodu," Adeniyi said.

After work on December 2, 2009, he reportedly went to Olabiran Street to bathe before going home. On getting to the house, he met Asimiyu and an unidentified young man in a heated argument. While some people said the argument ensued after the unidentified young man had insulted an old woman and Asimiyu decided to defend the woman, others said the argument might have resulted from Asimiyu's perception that the man in question had become too close to his second wife who lived in the house.

"We got there after Kolawole (Adenusi) had been stabbed. People couldn't even



explain what caused it. Some said it was because of an old woman the young man insulted, others said it was because of an existing matter between the two. But what I know is that my brother was not involved in that fight. He was only trying to make peace," he said.

Dammy, an eyewitness who insisted on being identified by his first name only said, the argument between Asimiyu and the young man degenerated into a heavy fight, with the policeman beating the young man mercilessly.

Fearing that Asimiyu could harm the young man if nothing was done, Kolawole moved in to separate them. He was said to

have told the policeman that he was too big to engage such a young man in a fight. That remark reportedly angered the police sergeant.

Dammy recalled that Asimiyu had earlier warned Kolawole to stay off the matter. "He told Kolawole that a peacemaker could pay dearly for other people's matters, but he (Kolawole) responded that by engaging a small boy in a fight, Asimiyu was only embarrassing himself. Although he was only joking, Asimiyu did not take it kindly," Dammy said.

Adeniyi, however, insisted that the deceased did not say anything that could have offended his killer. "He only told him

to leave the boy alone. The policeman responded by saying that Kolawole too needed to be taught some lessons. So, as Kolawole turned to pick the bucket of water with which he wanted to bathe, Asimiyu removed a dagger he had tied to his ankle and stabbed him in the chest," he said.

In the midst of the confusion that followed, the policeman fled.

"They called me after he had been stabbed," Adeniyi said.

"They had taken him to the General

“When we reported the case, we discovered that the policeman that was investigating it knew Asimiyu, because he kept calling him and was even feeding him with information concerning the case.”

Hospital at Oguntolū, so I went there to meet them. When I got there, I met my other brothers and we were advised to take him to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja. It was at the hospital that he was confirmed dead."

The family reported to Alade Police Station in Somolu and made a statement. But Adeniyi said the police had done nothing about the matter since then. "When we reported the case, we discovered that the policeman that was investigating it knew Asimiyu, because he kept calling him and was even feeding him with information concerning the case."

"To cut the story short, after waiting in vain for a week, we went to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti. To our surprise, the policemen at Panti said there was nothing in the file that was forwarded to them from Alade police station. Since then, we have been going and coming," Adeniyi said.

But not willing to let the matter die, the family employed the services of Chief Femi Odufowokan, a lawyer, who has since written a petition to the commissioner of police in Lagos State.

In the petition, the lawyer said, "The deceased's family heard that Mr. Semiu Asimiyu had resumed work at Mopol 20, Ikeja, Lagos without anything done to him so far. The family are of the view that this matter is being treated this way because the accused person is a policeman."

He asked the commissioner of police to step into the matter by making sure it was investigated and the errant policeman brought to book.

Asked what the family wanted from the police authorities, Adeniyi said the police sergeant should be arrested and prosecuted. "People are saying that my brother did not know anybody, that is why all this is happening. We want to know the real reason why he (Asimiyu) killed him and what he intends to do about his wife and three children. Finally, he must get the punishment he deserves," he said.

The spokesman of the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba declined comment on the allegations the family levelled against Asimiyu. "The matter is being investigated. That is the only thing you would hear from me," he said.