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Man stabs cousin to death over family property

By Comfort Oseghale

Saturday, 22 Jan 2011

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No. 10, Ramoni Oke Street, Itire, Lagos. Photo: Comfort Oseghale

It was a sad day for the occupants of 10, Ramoni Oke Street, Itire, Lagos, on Monday last week when a quarrel between two cousins, Omobolanle Oladeji and Olarenwaju Ajewole, turned bloody, resulting in Oladeji's **death**.

The small bungalow, consisting of four rooms in addition to a court yard, was quiet and serene when CRIME DIGEST visited the building on Thursday. There was no indication whatsoever of the tragedy that had befallen its occupants only a week before.

A neighbour, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said it was not unusual to hear of fighting emanating from the occupants of the building. "You know, that house is a family house; its occupants are relatives. It is not unusual at all to hear them quarrelling, more so if Olarenwaju (Ajewole) is involved," the source said.

On that fateful Monday at about 8.30 pm, a quarrel between Ajewole and another relation kicked off the events that culminated in Oladeji's **death**.

"Olarenwaju was having a problem with another **cousin** of his. The quarrel dragged on for a while until Oladeji stepped in to put an end to it. He asked Olarenwaju why he was fond of threatening to kill whomever he had a quarrel with and if he could indeed kill a human being," said the source, who claimed ignorance of the cause of the quarrel.

Ajewole and Oladeji were said to be related through their mothers who are sisters; the latter's mother being the elder of the two.

As if to prove to his elderly **cousin** that he was capable of committing murder, an enraged Ajewole made

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for a screwdriver with which to fight Oladeji. The older **cousin** was said to have gone for an iron rod. "Those around tried to intervene, but Olarenwaju stabbed Oladeji in the chest with the screwdriver; he is much younger, being in his 20s, while Oladeji was in his 60s," the source said.

After stabbing Oladeji, the assailant allegedly stabbed his victim again in the groin with the screwdriver. The elderly **cousin** reportedly gave up the ghost on the spot before help could reach him.

The Deputy Police Public Relations Officer, Lagos Police Command, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, confirmed the incident, but gave a different reason for the cause of the quarrel between Oladeji and Ajewole. "A murder took place at Itire on January 10 between two relatives, who had a quarrel **over** some **family property**. The suspect has been taken into custody and the matter is currently under investigation at the state CID Panti," Jinadu said.

When CRIME DIGEST visited the scene, a middle-aged **man**, who identified himself as a relative to the suspect and the deceased but refused to mention his name, simply described the **death** as a great sorrow to the **family**.

"This matter is of great sorrow to all of us here and I'm not at liberty to speak with you on it. Oladeji's immediate **family** members are not around. Perhaps you can come back at some other time when they would be available," he said.

Oladeji is said to be survived by two children.

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