

KAI DRIVER STABBED TO DEATH BY COLLEAGUES

Comfort Oseghale

The wide, vacant space of land, which is littered with assorted automobile parts and disused vehicles, situated opposite the Adeola Odeku branch of the Union Bank in Victoria Island, Lagos, looked nothing more than a vehicle repair workshop.

To street traders and other residents within its immediate vicinity, the complex is the Victoria Island branch of the Kick Against Indiscipline and more recently, the scene where Isa Mumuni, a driver attached to KAI, was allegedly killed by his own colleagues.

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“We traced the boys (Rasaki and Akeem) to their homes, but couldn't find them. I told the police that I could take them to their parents' house but they have not asked me to take them there”

Akinwale Aborisade

The ancient town of Iseyin in Oyo State was thrown into mourning penultimate Friday as pandemonium broke out at a funeral ceremony in the town, leaving a young man, whose name was not immediately available, dead and several others injured.

According to information made available to CRIME DIGEST, tragedy struck in the community when a free-for-all broke out between two groups of young men at the Olokoyo area of the town when the miscreants began to fight with broken bottles.

Some members of the two aggrieved groups were reported to have stabbed one another with the sharp object, thereby leaving many casualties in its trail with people in the neighbourhood fleeing the troubled spot to

Man stabbed to death at funeral

safety.

A member of the group that allegedly stabbed the deceased to death, Akeem Hammed, was detained by the police in Iseyin.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Oyo State Command, Mr. Olatunji Ajimuda, who confirmed the incident, said the suspect gave vital information that could lead to the arrest of other members of his group.

Hammed, 25, a native of Iseyin from Ile Afaaji, is a cloth weaver. The father of two said he and two other friends were invited for the funeral ceremony by the bereaved family. He said, “We were about to leave the venue of the programme and I went to bid our friend that invited us to the occasion farewell.

“I later met the two others (Rasaki and Akeem) where they were fighting. I tried to stop the fight, but they didn't stop, so I ran to an uncle that lives near the place.”

Afees, who was said to be a member of the Oodua Peoples Congress, reportedly followed him to the scene to stop the fight. But in the ensuing confusion, one of the gladiators allegedly smashed a bottle on Hammed's head. He was said to have collapsed and got drenched with blood. The people rushed him to the Iseyin General Hospital, on a motorbike.

He told CRIME DIGEST, “After being treated, I went back to Afees' house to rest.” There the police came to whisk him to the station for interrogation.

Hammed said, “I did not know the cause of the fight as I was speaking with the person celebrating at the time. I later met them fighting with some boys in the area. I couldn't have been fighting with them because I had an accident and broke my hand. It has not healed and it still pains me. That was why I ran to someone for help to stop them from fighting. But on getting back to the scene we met them fighting with broken bottles. One of them hit my head with broken bottle and my head was stitched at the hospital.”

He said that he later learnt that one of the boys, who was attacked during the fight, had died.

According to the police, Hammed's friends, who were allegedly involved in the fight have since gone into hiding. One of them called Rasaki is a herbalist, while the other, Akeem, works in a bakery.



Hammed alleged that it was the herbalist that stabbed the deceased. He explained that Rasaki was not drunk at the time of the fight because they were not served alcohol at the party. He said, “We traced the boys (Rasaki and Akeem) to their homes, but couldn't find them. I told the police that I could take them to their (the suspects') parents' house but they have not asked me to take them there.”

The matter has been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Iyaganku, Ibadan, Oyo State capital, for further investigation.

The State Police commissioner, Mr. Adisa Bolanta, confirmed the story, saying investigations into the incident were still ongoing.



•KAI zonal office, Adeola Odeku, VI, Lagos

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“That place where KAI officers use as their office was formerly a mechanics workshop,” a petty trader said. “In fact, I used to sell my products there until they came and drove us all out before turning the place to their office.

“That day Mumuni died, his colleagues had gone out as usual to arrest people for various environmental offences.

According to the lady, Mumuni was usually unhappy with his colleagues because of the way they extorted money from their victims. “They would arrest people for all kinds of reasons and force them to pay money to secure their release. Sometimes, people who were arrested with their money pouches on

them would have the pouches seized and the contents emptied,” she said.

Mumuni's colleagues had arrested several people and had locked them up in a van usually driven by Mumuni. The alleged offenders were kept at the back of the van till about 7 pm when the KAI commanders of the VI branch closed for the day. “When their bosses had gone, two KAI officers approached Mumuni and asked him for the keys of the van. They had earlier extorted money from some of the people ‘imprisoned’ in the van and had assured them that they would be released after their commanders had gone home,” the lady said.

The KAI officials, who were later identified as Michael Ajisegiri and Animashaun Idowu, were

KAI driver murdered by colleagues

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offended when Mumuni did not oblige them.

“Mumuni knew that they had extorted money from those for whom Ajisegiri and Idowu wanted to secure their release. He was angry that they were prepared to leave the rest behind who couldn't afford the bail,” the lady explained.

In a bid to forcibly take the keys from Mumuni, a fight reportedly ensued between the three. Mumuni was said to have been stabbed in the neck and stomach, resulting in fatal wounds, which allegedly led to his death.

The remains of the deceased were later said to have been taken to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, where he was also confirmed dead.

When contacted, the Lagos State Police

Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, said the police had already commenced investigations. “Isa Mumuni was stabbed during a fight by persons whose identities are yet to be ascertained. The matter has been transferred to the state CID Panti for discreet investigation,” Jinadu said.

KAI Marshal General Capt. Danjuma Maigeri told CRIME DIGEST that KAI was yet to get an official confirmation of the incident from the police. Maigeri said, “It is not as if we are not aware of that case but I want the clear facts from the police and they are still investigating the issue. I am yet to get a written statement from them confirming the incident. On our own part at KAI, the provost marshal and intelligence department are yet to also conclude their own investigations. We are not hiding anything. Once the true situation of things is clarified, we will make our findings known to the press.”

“There are some issues yet to be clarified about the events that led to Mumuni's death. There are three separate incidents of altercations that occurred at Victoria Island that day involving KAI officers and other members of the public.