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Murder of unidentified man sets Lagos neighbourhood on edge

By Kunle Falayi

Saturday, 9 Jul 2011

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Residents of Vono Road, Ilupeju, Lagos State, are on edge over the killing of an unidentified man at about 10.30 pm on Monday. The man was shot in the head by an alleged gang, who remained unknown as at press time.

The residents said their trepidation was caused by the fact that it was about the third of such cases in the last

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two months.

A resident, Julius Dede, told our correspondent that the area had not known peace in the last one year because of the various acts of violence allegedly perpetrated by gang members.

The general atmosphere of fear in which the people of the community live was expressed by an unidentified resident, whom our correspondent attempted to talk to about the violence in the community.

He looked around him carefully and quietly said, “Please go away, I don’t know anything. I don’t want any problem.” A resident, who identified himself as simply Muniru, said he was sitting in the front of his house when the incident occurred. He narrated the build-up to the killing, which he said happened on Monday morning.

He said, “These guys that I can’t identify came to this neighbourhood on Monday morning and started harassing people. I don’t think they are residents of this area. They said they had a kind of grudge with someone about something.

“The young men, who were around, repelled them and sent them out of this area, but they swore to come back. Truly, they came back at about 10.30 pm. We heard a gunshot and everybody quickly ran away. It was in the morning that we found the man beside the road, shot in the head.”

Our correspondent found out from another resident, who pleaded anonymity, that the men whose number he could not ascertain, came on motorcycles.

When they stopped, they asked the first man they saw to lie down on the ground and shot him in the head.

He said, “I saw them from a distance, but immediately I saw the guns they were holding, I told the people around me and we all ran away. It was not like they targeted the man who was killed. They just met him on the road and asked him to lie on the floor. They blew his brains out on the kerb.

“Some unidentified men came in a bus, the following day (Tuesday) and took the body away. If you were here

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yesterday morning before it rained, you would still have been able to see the brain matter there.”

An investigation by this correspondent showed that two other men had been found dead earlier in the month in the neighbourhood.

SATURDAY PUNCH learnt that one of the bodies was dropped off by suspected gang members riding on a motorcycle at the same spot where the man was shot on Monday.

Muniru, who earlier spoke to our correspondent, said, “They just rode here on their motorcycles and dropped the body in that same place.”

Asked what the residents did afterwards, he replied, “What do you think? We all took to our heels of course. I’m telling you, Vono Road is a zone of death.”

SATURDAY PUNCH contacted to the Police Public Relations Officer for the Lagos State Command, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, who confirmed that the unidentified man’s body had an evidence of head trauma.

“The police have not determined the identity of the man. Meanwhile, investigation is still on,” he said.

However, the residents of the neighbourhood are still living in fear. Most of those who spoke to SATURDAY PUNCH appealed to the police to station a patrol team permanently in the neighbourhood, hoping that it would reduce violence in the area.

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