

OPC members kill man in Lagos

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There was pandemonium in Oduduwa, Aguda area of Lagos State after the corpse of a 24-year-old man, Yusuf Balogun, was discovered on Monday morning at a popular bar known as Jelz.

PUNCH METRO gathered that the deceased was allegedly shot by members of the Oodua Peoples Congress attached to a hotel on the same street.

A relative of the deceased, who identified himself simply as Akeem, said although the corpse was discovered on Monday morning, Balogun was killed on Sunday night.

He said, "According to what I heard, OPC members entered Jelz bar around 9:30pm where Balogun was drinking with another person.

"The hoodlums allegedly entered the bar and started shooting sporadically. Consequently, Balogun was shot in the mouth and the chest while another person was stabbed."

Akeem, who refused to give his surname because of the sensitive nature of the issue, maintained that even after sustaining gunshot wounds, Balogun was still alive but later died due to the police negligence.

He said, "According to witnesses, he

(Balogun) was still breathing when policemen came. The witnesses pleaded with them to quickly get him to a hospital in order to save his life but the policemen pronounced him dead. I don't know when policemen became doctors.



"There is a strong chance that if he had been rushed to hospital on time, perhaps he would have survived."

A k e e m added that the

policemen immediately locked the bar and left Balogun inside there till the following morning (Monday) when he eventually died.

PUNCH METRO learnt that on Monday morning, when the policemen went to recover Balogun's corpse, youths in the area became restive and threatened to burn down the hotel.

A close police source, who spoke to our correspondent on the condition of anonymity

said, "Immediately youths in the area saw the corpse, they became violent. They marched down to the hotel which the OPC members were attached to and threatened to burn down the place but were prevented from doing so by policemen who arrived on time."

It was gathered that two suspects had been arrested and the police had begun investigation.

"We wanted to start investigations but because the youths were fomenting trouble, we had to transfer the suspects to Area C, which is the supervising command. The suspects were later transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department," our source said.

Akeem urged the police to do a thorough investigation so that the suspects would be prosecuted accordingly.

"Balogun was into printing. He was the only child of his parents. His mother is late but his father is old and depended on him. The police must get to the bottom of this because his life was cut short for no just cause," he said.

When our correspondent called the Police Public Relations, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, for comment on Wednesday, his phone was switched off.