



CrimeDIGEST

Murder suspect disappears from police custody

Comfort Oseghale

Police in Ogun State are unable to explain the sudden disappearance of a murder suspect, Mr. Lukumon Osinuga, from the custody of the Ikenne Divisional Police Station.

Osinuga had on August 26, 2011, allegedly murdered the leader of his church, Mr. Solomon Fayokun, in his sleep.

The suspect, who also inflicted injuries on his victim's wife, Bose, escaped from the couple's residence before help could reach them.

For about two months, after an initial report was made at the police station, Osinuga has been on the run. He evaded police arrest until he resurfaced in the premises of the Celestial Church of Christ in Iperu.

Recalling what happened on the night of her husband's murder, Mrs. Fayokun said, "My husband and I have known Osinuga for about two years. He is a member of our parish. He is a native of Iperu and lives there with his family, though he attends church services at Ilisan where our church is currently situated.

"On the night that he murdered my husband and attacked me, he was staying in our home. There was a vigil scheduled to start from 12am in the church. Our residence and the church are a short distance apart in the same compound. He had dinner with us and afterwards, we decided to take a nap before midnight.

"While we were asleep, Osinuga walked into our bedroom with a machete and attacked my husband. He struck my husband repeatedly with it until he died. He then attacked me. Although I screamed, members of the church, who were waiting for the vigil to start, did not hear me until it was too late. By that time, Osinuga had escaped."

CRIME DIGEST gathered that Osinuga attacked and killed Fayokun at about 11pm, just an hour to the time scheduled for the commencement of the night vigil.

Bose, whose arms were broken during the attack, said Osinuga betrayed no signs of his murderous intention in previous dealings with him. She said, "We have had a cordial relationship with him over time. We knew him to be a responsibly married man with four children. He ran his own furniture making factory at Iperu. There was nothing to show that he nursed any grudge against us and we had nothing against him."

There was nothing that anyone could do about Fayokun who was already dead. He was buried on the next day. However church leaders and other family members made a report at the Ikenne police station where a certain Corporal Olusola was assigned to handle the case.



•Bose



•Osinuga

A Senior pastor with the Celestial Church of Christ, Mr. Dayo Ayeni told our correspondent that about two months

after his sudden disappearance, Osinuga showed up again at a branch of the church in Iperu, his hometown.

Ayeni said, "This happened on Friday, October 28, 2011. Everyone was taken by surprise. It wasn't as if those present even recognised Osinuga. He just showed up and introduced himself as the person who murdered Fayokun. He claimed he had sought refuge in Jos but was forced to make the journey back home because his conscience was troubled. Naturally, everyone was shocked. I was immediately informed and I came over, being the regional head of the church in Remo region.

"I talked with Osinuga myself and he said the same thing; I even took his picture. He seemed rational and normal. Then we all moved in my car to the Ikenne divisional police station where the first report was made. This was at about 7pm. Osinuga made his statement and was detained. Then, we were all told to come back the next week, on a Monday."

Ayeni said he returned to the Ikenne Police station in company with the others on Monday.

He continued, "Mrs. Fayokun and her children also made an appearance. As the investigative police officer, Olusola took down her statement and mine, she requested to be allowed to see Osinuga, just to be sure that he was still in the custody of the police. Olusola refused. For a while, they argued about this until she noticed Osinuga's name on a chalkboard behind the counter. That showed that he was still in the station. With that, she made no further requests.

"At about 12pm, Olusola told me they had

received a signal from Abeokuta to send down Osinuga. He then asked me how the police could do this; that they needed a vehicle. Obviously I was not going to lend them my car for that purpose. After deliberating on it for awhile, I gave Olusola N3000 and asked that a vehicle be chartered to Abeokuta. All I wanted was for the the man to be transferred to police headquarters and a proper investigation carried out."

The next morning, perhaps in a bid to reassure himself that Osinuga had indeed been moved to Abeokuta, Ayeni went down to the Ikenne Police Station where a curious sight awaited him.

"Immediately I went in, I knew something was wrong. There were police officers gathered in groups of twos and threes talking about something. My first fear was perhaps, Osinuga had died during interrogation. However, no one spoke to me, until the Divisional Crime Officer informed me that Osinuga had escaped from the cell in the middle of the night. How he escaped from a police station without breaking through his cell or alerting the police officers on duty remains a mystery to this day," he said.

The Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer Muyiwa Adejobi confirmed the incident and condemned the negligence of the police officers on duty. He said, "Indeed, a murder suspect was brought to the Ikenne Police Division and the said suspect later escaped police custody. We have begun investigation into this matter and all the police officers on duty will under go orderly room trial and will be appropriately punished for their negligence. It is unethical for a suspect in a capital offence to escape police custody and all those involved have been ordered to produce the suspect."