

Man shoots best friend while drunk

Stories: Ademola Olonilua

A member of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria, Oluwaseyi Adebayo, is in deep trouble for killing his best friend after a brief argument.

The deceased, whose name was Abimbola Jegede, was said to have quarreled with his assailant few minutes before the latter shot him at close range with a locally made pistol.

Sources told CRIME DIGEST that Adebayo had left the scene of the argument with a promise to return and 'deal with' Jegede properly.

One source said, "When Adebayo returned, he was armed with a locally made pistol. He shot his friend twice because the gun had two cartridges. After he shot his friend, he went back to his home to sleep."

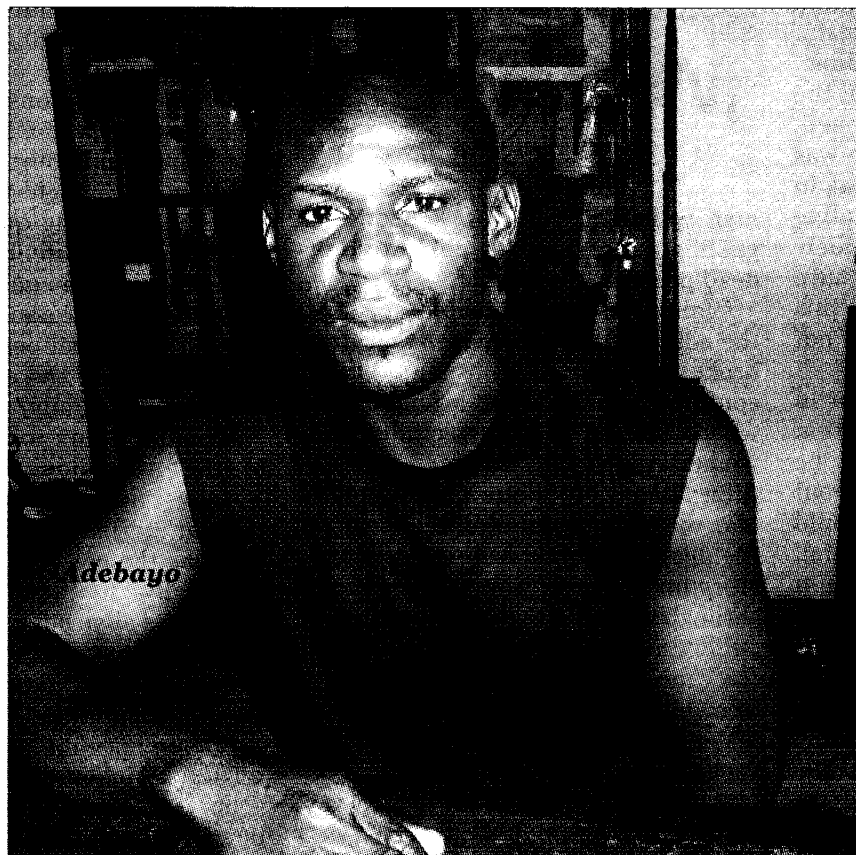
The source said it was obvious that Adebayo was drunk before he committed the crime. He said the police was informed that Adebayo had consumed some locally brewed gin before the incident.

Adebayo denied the story. He told our correspondent that what transpired on the fateful day, which was November 7, 2011, remained a mystery to him.

He said he could not recall anything that happened on that day. But he admitted that he had gone to celebrate the Eid-El-Kabir festival with his boss and was offered two bottles of beer.

Adebayo said he left there at 10 pm to pick up his motorcycle from his workshop. When he got there, he met Jegede and they exchanged pleasantries, jokes and he went home to sleep. Trouble started when some of his apprentices informed him that Jegede had been shot and that latter kept mentioning his name as he was in a fit of agony.

Adebayo said, "I rushed to my workshop only to find my friend lying in a pool of blood. I was advised to take him to the hospital before he lost more blood. When I ran home to take my identity card, I noticed



that my gun was not where I had left it.

"I had a strange feeling. I took my I.D card and went to meet my bosses. I explained to them and they advised me not go to the scene of the crime so that I wouldn't be attacked by an angry mob. I listened and they left to see what was happening.

"When they returned, they did not tell me he was dead. They told me the bullets were being removed from his body. They told me to come with them, I

obliged and they brought me to the police station."

Apart from claiming amnesia, Adebayo said he could not have murdered Jegede because he was his best friend.

He said he was the one who brought Jegede from Seme border to Lagos when he was seriously sick and was almost dead.

When Jegede got well, Adebayo said he took sole responsibility of his welfare, providing him with shelter, food and cloths.

He told CRIME DIGEST that it was impossible for him to kill somebody who was that close to him, adding that when the deceased got a job as a security guard and was in need of a guarantor, he came to his aid.

Adebayo said that if he truly killed his best friend he must have been under a spell.

"I could not have killed my best friend. How would I have killed him in my workshop?

They said a man who was sleeping in the workshop heard us argue. We were joking, Jegede teased me that I did not understand Yoruba and I was laughing. I believe I may have been hypnotized," he said.

The Police in Ogun State confirmed the incident. Adebayo is currently under investigation at the Criminal Investigations Department of the Ogun Police Command and will be charged to court in due course.