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January 19, 2012 by Eniola Akinkuotu 42 Comments



man, Ka<u>biru Ogunla</u>na, on Monday allegedly stabbed his girlfriend, Isiwatu Ajayi, to death in Mafoluku area of Oshodi.

It was learnt that after stabbing Ajayi to death, Ogunlana attempted to commit suicide by also stabbing himself.

Some of the eyewitnesses, who spoke to our correspondent on Wednesday, said although Ogunlana was married with children, he and Ajayi were lovers.

On the day of the incident, Ogunlana reportedly went along with his wife to confront Ajayi at her grandmother's house at 12, Olalubi Street after which an argument ensued.

An eyewitness, who did not want her name in print, said nobody knew what the argument was about but that Ogunlana brought out a knife and stabbed Ajayi to death.

"Ogunlana came with his wife to confront Ajayi. Ajayi turned her back and an argument ensued between them. Before I knew what was happening, Ogunlana had brought out a double-edged knife and stabbed Ajayi. He stabbed her repeatedly," she said.

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learnt that Ogunlana also allegedly stabbed three other people who attempted to collect the knife from him.

"After those three got injured trying to save Ajayi, everybody became afraid to go near him. Ogunlana stabbed Ajayi repeatedly in the neck, thighs, and chest," she said.

Our correspondent learnt that after allegedly stabbing the deceased, Ogunlana attempted to escape but the residents chased and caught him.

"We all ran after him but when he realised that we were about to catch up with him, he stabbed himself and collapsed. We thought he had died. However, while all that was happening, his wife escaped," a youth in the neighbourhood said.

A cousin of the deceased, who did not disclose her name, said, "I was in the front of the house when neighbours raised the alarm. Immediately, I went upstairs to inform our grandmother and we went to the backyard where she was stabbed.

"We decided to rush her to hospital since she was still breathing. But before we got to the hospital, she died because she had lost so much blood."

An aunt of the 25-year-old deceased, who spoke to our correspondent amid tears, said Ajayi's death was painful because she was the only surviving child of her mother.

She said, "Isiwatu (Ajayi) lost her mother at the age of seven and was brought up by her grandparents.

"Her grandfather just died four weeks ago and her grandmother is still mourning. It's too sad. She even had a

three-year-old child. I don't know why Ogunlana would commit such a hideous act."

Sympathisers who came in droves to condole with the family of the deceased, rained curses on Ogunlana and asked police to ensure that justice was done.

"Ajayi wanted to be a tailor and had started her apprenticeship at a nearby shop. However, because of Ogunlana, she couldn't concentrate on her job. She finally opted out to sell herbs to support herself," a friend of the deceased, Mariam, told our correspondent.

It was learnt that Ogunlana was arrested by policemen attached to the Makinde Police Division but was later taken to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital where he is still recuperating.

Following the incident, irate youths were said to have gone to Ogunlana's house and attempted to set it ablaze before policemen intervened.

A friend of the suspect described him as hot-tempered.

"He was a member of the Odua Peoples' Congress but was later dismissed. He later joined another vigilance group. He always carries a knife around but hardly did he fight people in the neighbourhood," he said.

He described the relationship between Ogunlana and Ajayi as very cordial and wondered what went wrong.

"Isiwatu(Ajayi) and Ogunlana were inseparable. Although Ogunlana was married and has two children, he treated her like a queen. Whenever Ajayi was hawking herbs, Ogunlana

would follow her around. I still don't know what went wrong," the friend said.

According to reports, 27-year-old Ogunlana, is presently responding to treatment but is still in the intensive care unit.

The spokesperson for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, told our correspondent that the case would soon be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department.



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