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Rite Foods distributor was brought dead to LASUTH – Source

March 2, 2012 by Eniola Akinkuotu [1 Comment](#)



Mr. Ademola Adedeji, a distributor with Rites Foods Ltd., was brought dead to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, a medical employee told our correspondent on Thursday.

Ademola had been arrested by policemen attached to the Ikeja Police Division after the company alleged that he owed it millions of naira.

Ademola, who was arrested on February 9, 2012, had allegedly died under mysterious circumstances in police custody less than 10 hours after he was detained.

The police had claimed in a publication by *PUNCH Metro* on February 17 that Ademola developed a sudden illness on the night of his arrest and was rushed to LASUTH where he later gave up the ghost.

But a medical employee, who craved anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case, told our correspondent that

Ademola was brought in dead to the LASUTH.

“On February 9, 2012, precisely at 11:30pm, one Inspector Solomon brought Adedeji to the Emergency Ward but the patient was brought in dead,” he said.

The widow of the deceased, Cecilia, had told our correspondent that she suspected that her husband was tortured to death by the policemen.

Cecilia, who spoke with our correspondent on the telephone on Wednesday night, lamented that she had not yet seen her husband's corpse.

Meanwhile, Cecilia's lawyer, Mr. Clement Eko, has in a petition to the Acting Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Muhammad Abubakar, alleged that the policemen maltreated Ademola and he died in their detention.

The petition is titled, ‘Petition against Rite Foods Limited and officers of the Nigeria Police, Ikeja Division, Lagos State, for criminal conspiracy, unlawful abduction, detention, torture and brutal murder of Mr. Ademola Lawrence Adedeji.’

However, our source claimed there were no signs of trauma or injuries on Ademola's corpse when he was brought to the hospital.

“An autopsy will reveal the cause of death but from my observation, there was neither swelling nor injury on the corpse. So, we can't really say that he was tortured to death,” he said.

It was learnt that neither the police authorities nor the company had contacted Ademola's family since the man

died three weeks ago.

Meanwhile, the company has dissociated itself from Ademola's death, saying the he did not die on its premises.

In a statement by the management on Thursday, the company acknowledged that the deceased was indeed arrested by the police after he allegedly issued dud cheques to the company and owed it N12m.

It reads in part, "For the avoidance of doubt, the company states unequivocally that it was not privy to or knew anything whatsoever of the circumstances that led to the death of Ademola.

"Ademola did not die in the company's custody. The company nonetheless condoles with the family of late Ademola. All enquiries should be directed to our solicitors, Ayalanja, Adesanya and Co."

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