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Man burnt to death inside abandoned vehicle

July 26, 2012 by Temitayo Famutimi



Commissioner of Police,
Lagos State Command, Mr.
Umaru Manko
| *credits:*

Tragedy struck on Raufu Alajo Street, Agege, Lagos, on Wednesday when a 19-year-old bus conductor, Sulaimon Balla, was burnt to death in an abandoned mini bus.

PUNCH Metro learnt that Balla slept in the bus which had been abandoned on the street for weeks on Tuesday night.

It was gathered that street urchins in the area usually spend the night in the bus which suddenly went up in flames about 2am.

A resident of the area, Rafiu Durojaiye, said Balla was burnt beyond recognition.

He said, "The bus suddenly caught fire about 2am. The fire was extinguished about 4am because we had difficulty getting water.

"We didn't initially know that someone had slept in the bus when we set out to put out the fire. It was when the fire had been extinguished that we discovered that somebody slept in

it.

“He was burnt beyond recognition and he was identified by a portion of his shirt which had not been torched by fire.”

However, Balla’s friend, Michael Sobande, said he suspected foul play.

He said, “We have been sleeping in that vehicle for over seven weeks now and I can’t fathom how a diesel engine bus will suddenly go up in flames if not that it was deliberately set on fire.

“I sensed that something sinister might happen anytime soon. I dreamt some days ago that I was tied down in that same vehicle and since then I stopped sleeping inside it. I told him about it and I don’t know why he returned there.”

It was however learnt that Balla’s corpse had been retrieved and buried before the police got to know about the incident.

When our correspondent visited the scene of the incident on Wednesday, he was attacked by some miscreants, who tore his note pad and forcibly deleted all the pictures of the burnt bus in his phone.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, Ngozi Braide, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on the phone.

She said, “The incident was reported at the Isokoko Police Division by a community leader. Investigations by the police revealed that the victim was an area boy who slept around in uncompleted buildings and abandoned vehicles.

“The deceased has been buried and the family members who came to the police station said they don’t want a case

and as it is, our hands are tied.”

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Juruchy Akuma July 26, 2012 at 1:32 am

Ngozi please don't let your hands get loose. go and fight Boko Haram

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Erikitola Abayomi July 26, 2012 at 4:10 am

In any civilised country and under normal condition,

Police should investigate this apparent case of murder. That the parents of the deceased, who is said to be an 'area boy' (and was sleeping inside abandoned vehicle!) said "they don't want to do case" is a white lie and should not be an alibi. Obviously, Police may not be interested bcos there is no money in it. But, this is a case that is capable of giving credit to the investigator/detective and improving the image of the NPF. Why was the reporter attacked by the 'social miscreants'? Why were the pictures of the burnt vehicle deleted from his camera? How could a 'diesel engine' vehicle catch fire in the middle of the night and burnt for more than 2hrs before it was extinguished? Micheal Shobande, an ally of the deceased is a state witness and should be able to help Police in their investigation. The NPF detective/homicide Department must not leave any stone unturned to unravel the mystery behind this death. The people are watching!

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o

divine July 26, 2012 at 9:08 am

in addition to the valid points you raised, i am also of the view that the burning of the said vehicle may be to cover-up, i think they probably killed the young man, put his body in the vehicle, and then burn same, hence the hurry in burrying him. the body should be exumed for a proper autopsy. may his soul RIP

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■

Ada Ndi Igbo Gburugburu July 26, 2012 at 9:55 am

@ Divine, I completely agree with you. Was the victim under Anastasia? The bus can not just catch fire and spread immediately except if someone poured fuel and deliberately set it on fire. Suilaman had a chance to escape if it was an ordinary fire. It does not matter if the family does not want a case. What they mean is that they do not have money to pursue the case. Whatever the family stand is, the police must do their job because the late Suilaman was a human person and a citizen of Nigeria and should be treated as such. Investigation should be done if it is murder, the murder/s should be brought to book, otherwise non of us is safe.

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Niyi Oladunni July 26, 2012 at 4:14 am

This is pathetic, God it is high time u intervened pls.

[Link](#)



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Niyi Oladunni July 26, 2012 at 4:24 am

This is pathetic, God it is high time u intervened pls. But come to think of it, coroner inquest ought to be conducted so as to ascertain d cause n circumstances surrounding d death of d poor conductor, at least to prevent similar occurrence in d future. Had it been d boy was a notable nigerian it would not end like dt. EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW.

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Darlington Bari July 26, 2012 at 4:50 am

Their hands are always tied except, when they want to accept egunje that they are free.....

Even if the family want to know what actually happen, would they live up to the task? It would be till thy kingdom come before any clue.

May the soul of the departed rest in peace.....

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kms July 26, 2012 at 6:08 am

people are suffering, no low cost housing to support the poor man. and we have govt

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adeola July 26, 2012 at 6:16 am

whose fault?is it is d deceased dats has been worn not 2 sleep in dat car again or d frend dat can't tell d deceased parent about wht he told his friend or d fault of d parent dat doesn't kw wher der son has been sleepin 4 some weeks.as young as he was (area boy) may d lord help an individua 2 realise his/her fault & change fm our wayward lifestyle.

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Dapo July 26, 2012 at 7:47 am

MUMU PEOPLE!!!! UNA NO ABUSE FASHOLA NOW
OOH.. If na NEWS from north una go dey Abuse GEJ..
STUPID RETARDS... msheeeew.... GOD GO PUNISH
ALL OF UNA WEY DEY WISH BAD FOR OUR
GOVTS!!!

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hamza audu July 26, 2012 at 8:56 am

burnt beyond recognition; identified by the portion of his
shirt which had not been torched by fire..stupid
story...God punish who killed dat innocent boy who out
of sheer bad economy of our nation found his way in an
abandoned vehicle instead of being in school..God help
nigeria!

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vincent sunday July 26, 2012 at 9:17 am

A bus was abandoned for weeks and the authority in the
state never attempt removing it untill some one's life was
destroyed,what a shame! That bus wouldn't have caught
fire without someone putting it,so police have to do their
work and bring it to a good conclusion.

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- *God,s own* July 26, 2012 at 10:00 am

Nigerian's are really suffering no light, house, job. may God looking down on this country

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- *Ene* July 26, 2012 at 10:08 am

very stupid story, the innocent boy's blood will surely be on whoever set the fire, i pray for the person to change if not his life will also be destroyed in a fire too. May the innocent soul rest in peace.

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- *Ontop* July 26, 2012 at 10:17 am

Eyaaaaa RIP poor boy

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- *Chinonso Okereke* July 26, 2012 at 10:44 am

Oh! what a painful death. Whoever did will surely pay for it

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- *CHIBEKEE* July 26, 2012 at 11:05 am

my condolence goes out to the deceased family. please take heart, only God knows

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- *oyejide olusegun* July 26, 2012 at 3:06 pm

it is highly disgurstin.....

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- *Mathew* July 26, 2012 at 3:34 pm

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- *philosopher* July 26, 2012 at 8:32 pm

Arise my fellow compatriots.say no to man made deaths!
Enough is enough.get prepared to reclaim Nigeria!this is
one death too many.God bless Nigeria.

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Nduka July 26, 2012 at 10:37 pm

hmm how could a bus that has been parked for days suddenly go up in flames by self ignition?and the boy was burnt beyond recognition but a portion of his cloth was unburnt,please my question is, the cloth and the human body which one has more affinity to fire?just asking for clarification

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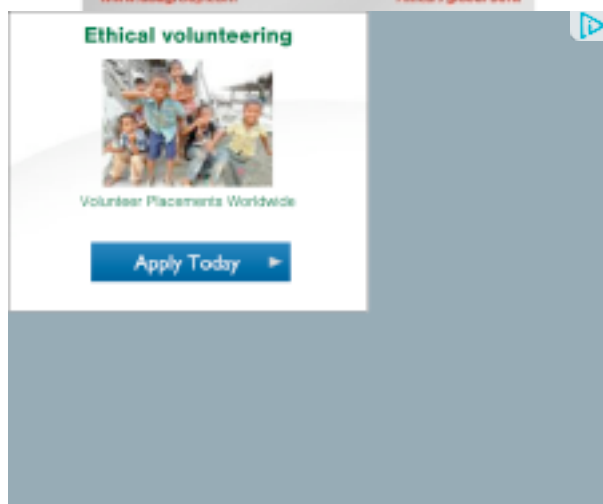
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