

Doctor, 27, murdered in Lagos traffic

ENIOLA AKINKUOTU and
TEMITAYO FAMUTIMI

A gunman operating on a motorcycle on Friday shot and killed a 27-year-old medical doctor, Irawo Adamolekun, at the Anthony Village end of Ikorodu Road, Lagos.

Irawo, who was driving in a black Sephia II Kia saloon car with Lagos number plate GP 388 AAA was shot at about 3:15pm in front of the traffic warden spot linking Access Road to Ikorodu Road.

It was learnt that the Ondo State indigene who had just left Osuntuyi Medical Centre, Obanikoro, where he works, was shot after he declined to part with valuables when the gunman attempted to rob him in traffic.

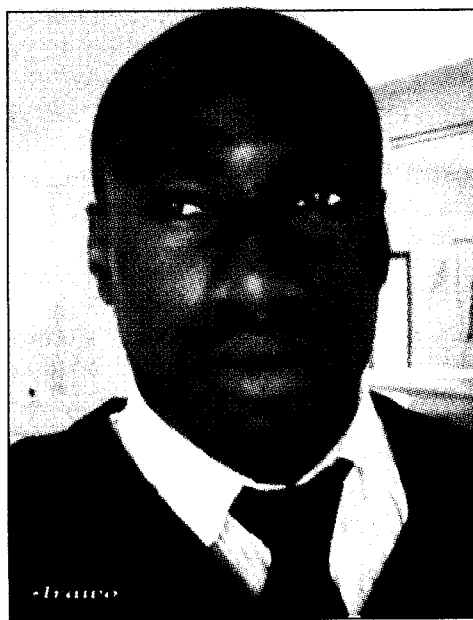
Eyewitnesses said the gunman who was wearing a three-quarter length short, shot the deceased at close range, mounted a waiting motorcycle on the other side of the road and fled the scene.

The deceased was taken to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, by officials of the Lagos State Ambulance Service.

A traffic official at the scene of the incident, who pleaded anonymity, told *SUNDAY PUNCH* that the gunman shot Adamolekun on the forehead adding that he was the only one in the vehicle.

He said, "Everybody here including police traffic wardens and men of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority all fled the scene on hearing the gun shot."

"The gunman fled on a waiting motorcycle immediately he shot



the deceased.

"When he was shot, his vehicle hit the Toyota Hiace bus in front of

him and caused a gridlock. "On moving closer, I saw the bullet hole in his head and he was in the pool of his own blood."

"Policemen from Pedro Division who came in two patrol vans and LASTMA officials later towed his vehicle away from the road."

The Chief Medical Director, Osuntuyi Medical Centre, Dr. Julius Osuntuyi, said Irawo was employed in the hospital on January 7, adding that he left the hospital after he closed for the morning duty which lasts between 8am and 3pm.

He said, "We are very saddened by the death of Irawo who joined

the services of this company on January 7. His doctor-patient

relationship was excellent for the few days he spent in this hospital. He was amiable and likeable by all and you would think that he had been working here for months."

"One of the patients he treated some days ago who thought he had an accident spotted his car on the road and telephoned us at the hospital. We took an ambulance to the scene before we learnt about the unfortunate incident."

Osuntuyi urged the police to unravel the mystery surrounding his death and bring the culprit to book.

When our correspondent visited the Pedro Police Division, the front seat was full of blood while his ward coat was dangling from the driver's seat.

The deceased was the only surviving son of his parents.

A family member, who spoke to one of our correspondents on the

condition of anonymity, said the deceased's older brother, Imole, died some years ago.

She said, "Imole was a student in Igbinedion University but died around 2004 in a car accident while leaving the school for home. He was the first born and it left the family devastated."

"Irawo was the only surviving son. He was also in Igbinedion University but later left to attend Houdegbe University, Benin Republic. He concluded his internship not too long ago at a military hospital and he had his life ahead of him."

Attempts to speak with the deceased's sister, Ojia, proved abortive as her telephone was switched off.

When contacted, the spokesperson for the state police command, Ngozi Braide, said she would call back but had yet to do so as at press time.

Irawo was kind and friendly —Friends

ALLWELL OKPI

FRIENDS and colleagues of Dr. Irawo Adamolekun, who was shot dead in Lagos on Friday, have paid tribute to him, while commenting on the story of his death on several blogs.

Many of them who knew the deceased described him as "friendly, cheerful and nice."

A colleague, who commented as 'anonymous,' on one of the blogs said, "Very sad. I'm speechless. You were always cheerful and full of smiles. You were there at the military hospital when my sister had an appendix operation. You came to encourage and support us.

God why, what a sinful world we live in. Rest in peace Dr. Irawo. God please console his family. Amen."

Another wrote, "Irawo was my friend. He was the kindest person I knew. The only flaw he had was that he loved too much. He didn't deserve to die so young. I miss my friend. Life will never be the same without your smile. Rest in the Lord."

A school friend said, "Irawo was the first to bring a car to school. We used to call his Benz 'Okere,' Rip Irawo Adamolekun."

Yet another friend, who was Adamolekun's fellow student at Igbinedion University, wrote, "I went to school with him. He was

nice to the bone. He left because his elder brother died. What a way to hear about him after all these years. RIP Doc."

One of the commentators, Cee Frank, wrote, "God!! I'm speechless, so sad! What pains me the most is remembering what Dr. Irawo went through to be what he was and then seeing that dream shatter into pieces like that is no joke! These people must be brought to book. We all have been victims of this rubbish; I don't want to recount my own story, but Dr. Irawo's death should not be left lying low. R.I.P worthy colleague."

Another person, Toyin, wrote, "Irawo, how ironical. I was looking at my picture at Houdegbe on Thursday night and I was talking about your dress sense, your personality and all that. It saddens my heart that I heard about you this way. My prayer is that your heart was right with God and that you would see God. Only Him has the answers, I pray God himself who is the Prince of Peace and Comforter would comfort mum, Ojia and dad, because human words cannot comfort them. Rest in peace Irawo. I remember you saying to me so many times 'Toyin, you know you are my sister.'"

The great loss: A sister's tribute to her late brother

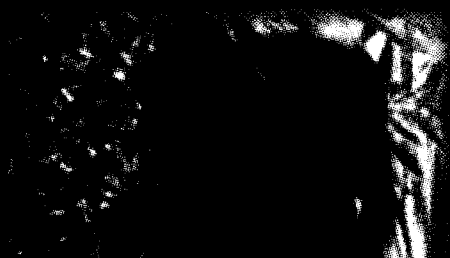
OJIA Adamolekun is the only sister the Adamolekun brothers had. Her younger brother, Irawo, was murdered in traffic on Friday while her elder brother, Imole, died nine years ago in a car accident.

This was her tribute to Imole on her blog, *Sweetness.blogspot.com*, on March 3, 2010:

were out.

The next day, which was a Sunday, my brothers went to church (BLW in Igbinedion University) and came back to their hostel at about 11am.

Marvin Solomon, a friend of ours from Lagos, who also attended Igbinedion had just arrived from Lagos with a taxi and the taxi was to return to Lagos immediately, so my elder brother decided to take the free ride home with



the prayers I knew best with all my heart and went to Eagle line in Yaba with a colleague of mine called Vivian Gilbert (now Mrs Vivian Kenedy) and just as we were crossing the road, Irawo called me and said, "Ojia there's no use, he is dead."

I asked him gently in the calmest voice I could use. He repeated the same statement with him wailing for the first time in his life. I was in the middle of the road and I started