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Hoodlums kill APC youth leader in Lagos

APRIL 30, 2014 BY ENIOLA AKINKUOTU AND SAMSON FOLARIN 4 COMMENTS

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Awotunde

| credits: Eniola Akinkuotu

There was tension around Apapa Road, Ebute Meta, Lagos, on Tuesday after the leader of a youth faction of the All Progressives Congress, Kunle Awotunde, was shot to death.

Our correspondents, who visited Ilogbo and Jones streets, learnt that Awotunde was killed as a result of a feud between thugs loyal to the late Seyi Rugged's gang and Skippo's gang.

PUNCH Metro had reported in January that Seyi Olaleye, aka Seyi Rugged, was stabbed to death by thugs loyal to Skippo on Moore Street.

It was learnt that the recent killing was a continuation of the fight which the police have described as a supremacy battle.

The deceased, who was said to be in his 30s, was alleged to be a member of Skippo's gang as well as a member of the National Union of Road Transport Workers.

A security guard, who witnessed the killing, told *PUNCH Metro* that Awotunde was killed on Ilogbo Street around 10am.

He said, "Skippo controls Brickfield, Olokodana, Ilogbo and Fagbaimu areas, while Seyi Rugged's group controls Jones and Vaughan streets as well as Oto and Railway line.

"Around 10am, one Jamiu, who is a member of Skippo's faction, was caught near Jones Street by some hoodlums and beaten to a pulp. He was then taken to the railway line and he was going to be killed. However, Awotunde and others came to rescue him.

"A few minutes later, Seyi Rugged's boys, led by one guy known as Scorpion, began shooting at them and they ran into Ilogbo Street. Awotunde was shot near his chest and died a few minutes later."

When our correspondents visited the home of the deceased, there was still tension in the air as many of the youths were reluctant to speak.

However, a woman, who identified herself as the wife of the deceased, described him as a responsible man, adding that he was survived by two children.

She said he was a former operative of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps.

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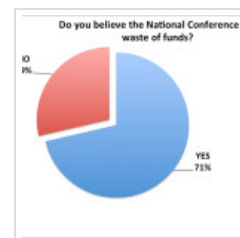


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The grandmother of the deceased, while crying profusely said, "I have nothing to say to you journalists, they have stolen my joy, they have done their worst."

Residents, however, said the crisis in the area was political as some of the thugs had the backing of top officials at the Mainland Local Government Area.

The Local Government Chairman, Oladele Adekanye, told one of our correspondents on the telephone that he was aware of the incident.

He, however, said he was not around and had yet to be briefed fully on the case.

Police Public Relations Officer, Ngozi Braide, said she would get back to *PUNCH Metro*. But she had yet to do so as of the time of going to bed.

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