

May 19th, 2015

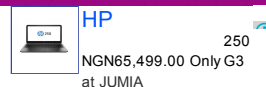


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Cultists kill tricycle driver during visit to mother

MAY 19, 2015 : SAMSON FOLARIN 9 COMMENTS

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Scene of the incident

| credits: Samson Folarin

Some suspected cultists have killed a 25-year-old tricycle driver, Debo Oturu, on Lawani Street, Mushin, Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the Ose Local Government Area, Ondo State indigene, who lived in the Oyingbo area of the state, was on a visit to his mother when the gunmen struck.

The gang, numbering about four, were said to have shot continuously at the victim until he gave up the ghost.

Policemen from the Alakara division were said to have recovered the corpse and deposited it in a

mortuary.

An eyewitness, Bolaji Kosoko, who also sustained gunshot injuries, said a member of the gang pursued him for raising the alarm.

He told PUNCH Metro that eight bullets had been removed from his body.

He said, "At about 10pm on Friday, I was discussing with my friend and also preparing to take dinner when I heard a gunshot.

"I shouted, 'which bastard is that?' Then the gunshots increased. One of the gunmen ran after me. He shot me in the back and leg. I don't know how I survived it; I should have died."

The victim said some of his friends assisted him to a place where he received treatment, adding that Debo died on the spot.

When our correspondent visited the home of the deceased, he met a crowd of mourners who had come to condole with the family.

They all described the victim as easy-going and gentle.

His sister, Alaba Laitan, said she was preparing food for him on the night of the incident.

She said, "When he came, he told me he was hungry, that I should prepare food for him. I was preparing the food when he said he wanted to buy sachet water, adding that he would take the food along with him to Oyingbo.

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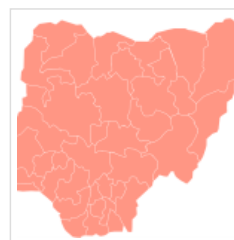
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"All of us were at the backyard when those boys entered the house. They shot him in the buttocks, head and leg. His body was riddled with bullets."

The victim's mother, Florence Oturu, said her son was doing the tricycle business because he could not get a good job.

She said, "After he finished secondary school, he went for a computer engineering course.

"When he could not get a job, he started driving a tricycle for commercial purpose. He said he would raise money to set up a business later. That was what he was doing before he was killed."

A neighbour, Mrs. Okoduwa Patience, said Debo was obedient.

"I saw him on Wednesday and told him to cut his hair, and immediately, he entered a barbing salon and did just that.

"When his brother got an apartment in Oyingbo, he relocated with him about two years ago," she added.

The landlady of the house, Mrs. Cecelia Awoyinka, decried the unresolved insecurity problem in the area.

It was learnt that sometime in March, a truck loader, identified as Gbenga, was also shot dead on the street.

The landlady appealed to the government to do something urgent.

She said, "The boy they killed was innocent. The government should save us. When we called the police, they didn't respond on time, and when they came, they arrested innocent people."

Our correspondent learnt that the onslaught was a continuation of supremacy battle between rival gangs in the community.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Kenneth Nwosu, when contacted, said he would get back to our correspondent, but he had yet to do so as of the time of filing this report.

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